

THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHS OFTHEYEAR STARTING ON PAGE 11

Ministers plot to challenge Blair

SENIOR CABINET members By Colin Brown are to challenge Tony Blair Chief Political Correspondent over the direction he intends to take the Government after

Peter Mandelson's resignation. The Independent has learnt that some senior cabinet ministers plan to use the departure divisions within the Cahinet of the chief architect of the after insisting in a BBC radio infor reassessment. They are already holding private discus- Mr Mandelson because it was sions over the future direction of the Government.

The revelation comes as Mr Blair flew out with his family to Mandelson. He told colleagues: Peter's going means that somethe Seychelles last night for a "Peter will not be happy." But new year holiday. He had con- it emerged that Mr Mandelson sidered cancelling the trip but had spent Wednesday night at

was urged not to by colleagues. "He's tired and needs a break," said a key minister.

He left behind smouldering "New Labour project" as a cue terview that the "New Labour

> "higger than any individual". Mr Blair's remarks were intended to distance him from Mr

announcing his resignation.

That left cabinet colleagues confused about the Prime Minister's intentions about Mr Mandelson, and some cabinet ministers saw Mr Blair's remarks yesterday as an open challenge to them.

Accepting the pivotal role Mr Mandelson played in modernising his party, Mr Blair said: "There will be a certain number of people who will be foolish enough to think that how there's some hlow to the project of New Labour." But he insisted: "That goes on. We got

modernisers - Alan Milburn Chief Secretary to the Treasury], Stephen Byers [Trade and industry], and John Denham [Health minister] - was a further signal that the mod-

ernisers remain on top. Another cahinet source said: "We support New Labour policies but we are very opposed to this Liberal-Gladstonian agenda. We are not talking about going back to the old Labour. But we want to get rid of the froth of the spin doctors." One sticking point is the

govern as New Labour." And he al Democrats, as part of the said his promotion of three anti-Tory project associated with Mr Mandelson. If this is reversed it could leave Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, exposed.

Cabinet ministers said to be opposed to coalition include Jack Straw, the Home Secretary; David Blunkett. Secretary of State for Education and Employment: the Chancellor. Gordon Brown; and John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister. Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is also said to be opposed.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Sec-

camp of leaking details of the £373,000 loan to Mr Mandelson from Geoffrey Rohinson, the former paymaster-general, which led to their resignations.

porter, is also seeking to

strengthen his alliances in the

Cabinet. He spoke to colleagues

last week in search of support

before the publication of a book

by Margaret Cook, his ex-wife.

creasing pressure to dismiss

Charlie Whelan, his spin doctor,

suspected by the Mandelson

The Chancellor was under in-

Robert Harris, best-selling author of Fatherland and a

considered buying a house in London with a flat for Mr Mandelson - which could have avoided the rumpus over his Notting Hill house - but opted

for a place in the country.

Sources said Mr Mandelson would pay back the loan to Mr Robinson with interest "early in the new year" using money from his mother and his family. He could still be in trouble over his mortgage application for failing to disclose the secret loan. He has written to the Britannia Building Society, from which he borrowed an extra

for its views.

His friends said he is considering making a personal statement to the Commons when it returns next month, but did not want retribution against the Brown camp. The Chancellor checked over the content of Mr Mandelson's resignation letter with him. A spokesman said: "They spoke three or four times on Wednesday. Gordon came back with a few changes. As far as the relationship with Gordon, it is fine."

> Resignation call, page 2 Leading article,

Nine die as war looms in Kosovo

THE SERBIAN province of Kosovo faced the prospect of full-scale war last night as heavy fighting, involving artillery, grenade and mortar fire, erupted near the village of Ohranca, 20 miles north of Pristina, hetween ethnic Albanian insurgents and Serb first day of fighting. security forces.

be heard in the Kosovan capi- after yesterday's planned futal. They are the latest in a series of clashes that began when Belgrade ordered its forces to launch a fresh crackdown on Christmas Eve in retaliation for the murder of several Serbs during 11 days of sporadic fighting across the province.

Albanian spokesmen say nine people have been killed in e latest offensive. It poses the eatest threat thus far to the October ceasefire - and to the monitoring operation of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), set

up to make sure it held. On Christmas Day, mediation led by the US diplomat, William Walker, who heads the OSCE contingent, hriefly seemed to have stilled the combat. But yesterday's renewed flare-up only underscored how the Kosovo crisis is on the verge of slipping out of control - at the very time of year when, . was commonly said, freezing weather would restore calm at least until spring.

Instead both sides are ignoring the ceasefire in the hope of clinching a decisive advantage. Since their failed summer offensive the guerrillas of the

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) have acquired new arms, including anti-tank weapons which KLA spokesmen claim knocked out seven Serb tanks and 12 armoured personnel carriers in the

In retaliation Yugoslav offi-So fierce were the ex- cials announced their forces changes, new into their fourth would continue operations consecutive day, that they could around Ohranca at least until neral of a Serb farmer whose body was discovered on Saturday. Milovan Radojevic, one of the last remaining Serbs in the village, was shot dead at his home, according to the Serb Media Centre, in what was "another crime committed by Albanian terrorists, aimed at creating an ethnically all-Albanian Kosovo".

Unlike the previous fighting, which was blamed on the security forces of the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, international officials say both sides have breached the ceasefire to the point where it is dif-ficult for OSCE to continue its work. Both sides have gone looking for trouble and they've found it," Mr Walker was quoted as saying. If the Serbs and Albanians did not want to keep their commitments, then there was not much 2,000 unarmed monitors (of whom 600 only are deployed) could do about it.

Once again Albanian refugees are fleeing villages caught up in the fighting. This time they are doing so in sub-zero temperatures.

Can anyone keep the peace?. Review page 4



Princes Street in Edinburgh yesterday. Retailers said shoppers were staying away from the sales because they feared redundancy

David Moir/Newsflash

Sales prove to be damp squib

THE CHRISTMAS sales began By KATE WATSON-SMYTH yesterday hut shoppers were unable to find the spectacular bargains they were hoping for. Many said they had been lured by the promise of massive price cuts hut were disappointed at the range of discounts on offer.

Pre-Christmas husiness was slower than expected and retailers were hoping that customers would make up for it at the sales. But the traditional scrum of expectant shoppers

The British Retail Consortium (BRC), which represents about 90 per cent of retailers. said that consumer confidence was low and many people had

just stayed away. Last year, faith in the economy was high and hopes of finding a good bargain rose when many stores announced that they had overstocked for Christmas. Shoppers queued through the night hoping to be

the first through the doors to stores were aware of the lack snap up the best prizes. Yesterday morning, however, there were only a few early starters waiting for the shops to open and no sign of mass sales fever.

Sharon Gleeson, who waited outside Selfridges in central London, was disappointed by the sale. "I got here early hoping to get a bargain hut I just don't think there are any this year. All the stores just seem to have knocked £20 off items," she said.

The BRC's Ann Grain said

Police are notoriously reluc-

of consumer confidence. "Reof last year will he repeated, in the sense that until after 21 December sales were very slow

and then picked up." she said. "Consumers are much more cautious. There may have been three interest rate cuts but there were six rises before that and people have this fear of depression around the corner. There are redundancies around and people are thinking 'I could be next'."

ting rid of an unwanted spouse

viser to one of London's most

powerful underworld gangs

was shot dead on his doorstep

by a hit man. Solly Nahome, 48,

a diamond dealer, was killed as

he returned to his family home

in Finchley, north-west London.

52, a civil engineer from Wolver-

In September, Peter Morris,

Last month a financial ad-

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Police blame Hollywood for rise of hit-men



A RISE in the number of mur- By JASON BENNETTO ders by "hit-men" in Britain is linked to more gratuitous violence in Hollywood films, according to one of Britain's most

senior policemen. Roy Penrose, the directorgeneral of the National Crime Squad (NCS), believes gun-toting characters played by stars such as Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone have encouraged criminals and society in general to become blasé about killing. He said the use of hit-men was a

"growing issue" nationally.

He also said that the Gov-

AND JOHN DAVISON

ernment's handgun ban, provoked by the Dunblane massacre, had no effect on the supply of firearms to criminals in the UK. Automatic weapons were being smuggled in and were still freely available.

Mr Penrose became the first director-general of the NCS, which has 1,450 officers, when it was set up in April to combat serious and organised crime nationally and internationally. He says screen violence and

firepower has led to a desensi-

tisation of people towards guns and shootings. "I'm conscious of seeing the Death Wish [films], Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis - those sort of big machotype people - shooting bloody great guns," he said. "I believe that society has become more tolerant of violence and has some appetite for violence."

He argued the combined effects of drugs, money and the glorification of guns and violence meant that if someone said" "Here's £10,000. Go and hlow that geezer away.' they just do it - life appears to be cheap."

tant to discuss contract killing, but Scotland Yard sources admit that "hits" have risen steadily in the past five years. Detectives from the Yard's Organised Crime Group estimate there are up to 20 hit-men operating in London alone, with prices ranging from £1,000 to £20,000 depending on the target.

Most contract killings are between rival crime gangs, increasingly in disputes over drug deals. However, a number have involved businessmen disposing of rivals or partners, and even husbands and wives get-

TV triumphs

hampton, was jailed after admitting soliciting the death of his wife. He paid an undercover po-

liceman a £500 downpayment for the "hit" after a neighbour with whom he had shared his plans went to the police.

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Storms kill four Four people were killed as winds of 110mph lashed British Isles Home P2

Lountdown to euro he single currency is iaunched this week Home P6

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Czechs turn on Havel The father of the 'velvet revolution' has lost the support of his people Foreign P9

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Blair has only just begun Comment P3

Comment P4

Testing time for Tony

Anne McElvoy

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Rupert Cornwell **Even General Winter** cannot freeze the war in Kosovo Comment P4

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PLUS CAN



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'I've lost the editorship and it feels like death'

MORE THAN 20 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM IN TUESDAY'S MEDIA SECTION

CORNWALL **SURVIVE THE ECLIPSE? WITH MEDIA** & ARTS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD,

Mandelson made mistake, says Blair

not declaring s £373,000 loan from a fellow minister, and retary of State for Trade and In-"paid a very heavy price for it".

But, in his first comments since Mr Mandelson resigned from the Cabinet over the loan a loan from him while in Opfrom the former paymaster- position was "a misjudgment". general, Geoffrey Robinson. Tony Blair pledged that the New Labour project would carry on without him. "It's bigger than any individual," Mr Blsir told BBC Radio. "He made s mistake, he did something wrong, and he paid a very heavy penalty for it.

What is important now is that we keep a sense of perspective about it. The Government goes on, we move on, and the New Labour programme, the New Labour Government, remains in place and we carry

Chief Political Correspondent

dustry from his department's inquiry into the business dealings of Mr Robinson, but taking

The loan was "not a wise thing to have entered into" but what was wrong, said Mr Blair, was that when the DTI inquiry was launched "it would have been wiser to have disclosed it".

Mr Blair confirmed that he three days" before Mr Mandelson resigned, on the day he made a statement to the Commons on the air strikes on Iraq.

"I wanted to be absolutely sure there had been no hreach of the wall between what he was doing in the DTI and what Geoffrey Robinson was doing. But the mistake was made. It was

Let's get it in perspective. tempt in any shape or form to abuse his position in relation to

was not an "earth-shattering event". Losing pilots over the Gulf or entering an economic downturn and having to raise interest rates would have been earth-shattering, he said.

Geoffrey Robinson ...

We both took the view that in the end, even though there had been nothing wrong in the sense of any interference with only found out about it "two or the inquiry into Geoffrey Robinson, none the less it was a serious misjudgement, it was a mistake and it was wrong not to have told the Permanent Secretary at the time of this arrangement and therefore it

was right that he go," Mr Blair was pressed over why he had not asked Mr Mandelson, whom he has described

LIGHTING UP

as a friend, how he could afford such an expensive house. He replied: "I really don't go round asking my cabinet members how they paid for their house." And he added: "Peter, whatev-Mr Blair insisted the affair er else you say about him, could have earned many more times the money outside of politics than he did inside."

Mr Blair dismissed claims he should have sacked Mr Robinson months ago, saying there was no conflict of interest until this latest affair. "If he had acted in breach of the ministerial code then of course I would have scted."

Had there been any evidence that Mr Mandelson had interfered with the inquiry into Mr Robinson, that would have put the affair into "a different bracket altogether", he said.

Mr Blair denied he had dithered, insisting he had acted faster than other prime minis-



Mandelson: 'Did something wrong and paid a very heavy penalty' Stefan Rousseau

Tories seek inquiry on free flights

CALLS WERE made last night for Peter Mandelson to resign as an MP after it was confirmed he had accepted undeclared free trips from a millionairess with a big US franchise in the bra trade, writes Colin Brown.

Mr Mandelson's aides confirmed the former secretary of state for trade and industry had taken free flights on the private iet of Linda Wachner, the head of Warnaco, an American clothing conglomerate.
Mr Mandelson's spokesman

said the trips were made in "a personal capacity". "It was nothing to do with his work at the DTL That's the reason it was not disclosed in the Register of Members' Interests, which only requires declarations relating to your work as an MP. This trip was paid for by her, out of her own personal bank account, not her company, and that was nothing to do with the DTL"

The shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, said the Tories would ask the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to

Noon today

Channel is, 5W England, 5 Wates: A breezy day with a mix of sunshine and showers, mainly over western coasts and fulls. A fresh and gusty south-west wax temps 6-9C (43-48F).

N Wales, NW, NE England, Cent N England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Bree with binef sunny spells and showers, these falling as sleet and show inland and over the hills. A fresh and gusty westerly wind. Max temps 3-60 (37-43F).

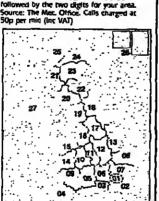
N Ireland: Showers mainly over western coasts and hills, where they will fall a sleet and snow. A fresh to strong south-west wind. Max temps 3-6C (37-43F).

er on Tuesday, but unsettled and windy with showers and some longer spells iin. Wednesday will be breezy with sunshine and a few showers in the south, Scotland and Northern Ireland will have gales with rain in the west.

ondon: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss obtage to Fortune Green Major works at nother Rd Gyratory. Until 31st December. annothing Rd Gyratory. Until 31st December. In Hadden. Construction, lane closures at contrallow. Until 31st December.

WEATHERLINE

For the latest lorecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (Inc VAT)



YESTERDAY EXTREMES Coldesk (day): Moyola, Tyrone 2C (26F) orders, Easter Ross 1.14 in

RAIN OR SHINE...

CHARITIES lost about £2m because Richard Branson failed in his round-the-world balloon hid. Mr Branson bet bookmakers \$300,000 at 10-1 that he would succeed with his circumnavigation of the world hopes that sank in the Pacific on Christmas night. Virgin said it did not know which charities would have received the winnings. The trip foundered in harsh weather off

EUROPE NOON TODAY THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD

THE WORLD YESTEROAY

Hurricane-force winds kill four



Workmen clearing up in Glasgow city centre Reuters

FOUR PEOPLE, including a BY KIM SENGUPTA small boy, were killed, one man is missing feared dead and thousands of homes have been left without electricity after hurricane-force winds of up to 110mph lashed Britain and Ireland yesterday.

As the emergency services cleared up, weathermen predicted more severe weather would affect the western parts of Britain from tonight for 48

Among those who died was Mark Huxley, 5, whose moththen careered across the road, colliding with another car in North Wales.

Mark's mother, Gillian Huxley of Whitchurch, Shropshire, was injured and was taken to Wrexham Maelor Hospital for treatment

A 28-year-old man was swept out to sea by a 30ft wave as he went for a swim in Brighton. Police said the victim had been out for s stroll with his 41-year-old girlfriend and her 21-year-old son when he decided to dive into the sea off Palace Pier. His body was spotted later by res-

cuers in a helicopter using an infra-red camera but it was considered too risky to try a

At Ashburton in Devon, Paul Witt. 44, was swept away as he stumbled into the rising waters of the River Ashton at the bottom of his garden. His body was found a mile downstream at the village of Peartree.

In Ireland 160,000 homes were left without power at one stage. Michael Joyce, 26, er's car hit fallen branches died when a falling tree crushed his car near the village of Maam Cross, at Connemara, County Galway. His girlfriend, a passenger, escaped unhurt.

In Northern Ireland s 24year-old motorist was killed on the Belfast Road, Comber, Co Down, when his car crashed into a tree in the road.

A 16-year-old girl was flown to the Scottish mainland by helicopter with serious head injuries after being hit on the head by a chimney stack hlown off a roof in Rothesay on the Isle

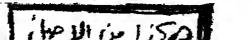
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HYBRID EMBRYOS created by BY STEVE CONNOR sing the cells of two different Science Editor species have been developed by scientists who believe the research could lead to new

ways of human cloning. This is the most compelling support yet for controversial claims that scientists created a cloned hybrid embryo by fusing a man's skin cell with a cow's

A team of American scientists from a leading animal cloning laboratory have released preliminary findings of a series of experiments in which they gen-

erated early embryos by fusing the cells of four different animal species – including a monkey – with bovine egg cells.

The research, details of which are scheduled to be published early next year in a scientific journal, raises the prospect of using cows' eggs as "incubators" to grow early human embryos, to allow the extraction of vital cells for transplant operations.

Scientists have expressed

peutic cloning - where embryos do not survive beyond 14 days - because of the shortage of human eggs and because it may be ethically more acceptable than using fully human

Earlier this year an American company, Advanced Cell Technology, which is closely linked to the University of Massachusetts, said its scien-

The embryo lived for several days and divided about five times to form a 32-cell embryo. However, the company's claims were not supported by published data, leading other scientists to be sceptical,

Details of the new research, by a team led by Professor Neal First, an authority on animal cloning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have emerged tists had created a hybrid em- at scientific conferences in

leagues Tanya Dominko and Maya Mitalipova successfully produced hybrid embryos by fusing bovine egg cells, which had their own nuclei removed, with cell nuclei taken from the skin cells of sheep, pigs, rats

and rhesus macaque monkeys. Dr Dominko, who now works at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Portland, said the monkey cells were the easiest to use of the bryo clone by transferring the America. The experiments infour species. "If we can do it with search was not to create adult cell nucleus of a human skin cell directly support the claims rhesus macaque monkeys, animals but to produce em-

حكذا من الاجل

The scientists did not have a licence to transfer the resulting embryos into the wombs of female monkeys, but they did transfer some back into sheep, Dr Mitalipova said. "We showed that the embryo implanted and the pregnancy lasted for about 30 days but we

Professor First emphasised that the intention of the re-

could not recover the foetus."

human cells," Dr Dominko said er cells that develop into the many different types of tissue which can be used for trans-

plant operations. It is the prospect of extracting human stem cells from early embryos and growing the resulting tissues for transplant operations that has resulted in Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) recommending the

use of therapeutie cloning. member and a distinguished

interest in the possibility of into a cow's egg that had its own using bovine eggs for theranucleus removed.

of Advanced Cell Technology. there is no reason at all to supbryologist. Said it was connucleus removed.

bryos old enough to extract embryologist, said it was connucleus removed.

embryologist, said it was connucleus removed.

of Advanced Cell Technology. There is no reason at all to supbryologist. Said it was connucleus removed. ceivable that scientists in Britain may one day be given a licence to create human-animal embryonic clones.

"They could certainly apply. but they would be turned down at present because of insufficient animal research. We'd need a body of animal work. fully documented, to be done before agreeing this," Dr McLaren said. Professor First's research, when published in the new year, could Dr Anne McLaren, HFEA mark the starting point for licence applications in Britain.



15 years of thefts come to light at **Arts Club**

ONE OF the country's most By STEVE BOGGAN venerable clubs has come to a painful conclusion after the Whistler, Frances Hodgkins, worth up to £1m: it is har- Laura Knight.

bouring a thief among its members and staff. The Arts Club. whose founding fathers include Charles Dickens and where the likes of Mark Twain, Anthony Trollope but the chairman, David Morand Winston Churchill relaxed, has been scandalised by a seven-year audit, which uncovered the apparently systematic theft of 45 paintings

its silverware collection. Today, Tony Banks, Desmond Wilcox and Nick Serota can be seen there, rub- anything about it. The club bing shoulders with Malcolm Bradbury and Linda Kitson. And if they got together, the topic of conversation would surely be the theft of the paintings. Among works missing from walls and storage rooms at the club in Mayfair, London, are pictures by John Singer Sargent, Augustus John, Jan van Goyen, James McNeill

hisappearance of paintings Samuel Palmer and Dame

The club committee has re ported the thefts to its insurers, asked the police to investigate and enlisted Trace, the art-fraud detection agency, ris, said initial inquiries had found nothing. "It is very sad, because many of the works were bequeathed or presented to the club by artist members.

"Frankly, I find it curious that so many paintings went missing without anybody doing was closed for refurbishment from 1974 to 1976. From that period to 1991, somebody appears to have systematically removed pictures."

Suspicion over who is responsible is rife among members at the 18th-century town house in Dover Street. Asked wbether he thought the thefts went unreported hecause

He has written to the club's 1,000 members - who pay subscriptions of up to £525 - for information on the last whereabouts of the various

some cases about works being rolled up and walked out after dark," he said.

was dismissed.



One of the missing works, 'Circus Horses', by Laura Knight (left), and a vacant space amid the club's collection

someone in a position of authority was involved, Mr Morris, who was appointed chairman six months ago, replied "Yes."

"Inevitably we are talking in

The thefts were uncovered hy Michael Preston, an arts design consultant who was appointed keeper of the pictures in 1991 after an incident in which a former chairman, Lord Aberdeen, saw two of the club's paintings for sale at Sotheby's. The sale was halted and a former club official

Since then an examination of records from 1974 to 1991 has identified 45 missing works for which there was no evidence of any sale. The results were re-



Club members Tony Banks and Desmond Wilcox

cently reported to members in the Arts Club Journal in an article entitled "Lost and Gone Forever", and they make sobering reading.

"As there appear to be no references to the sale of any of them in committee-meeting minutes or elsewhere or any reported loss of them, one can



have been removed unlawfully," Mr Preston concluded. Philip Mould, deputy chair-

man of the club's pictures committee, said: "It has been a slow awakening to borror when one realises how much has gone. A feeling of enormous sadness has descended on the place. We are, historically speaking, the but assume that they must most important club for the

welfare of the arts in London, mated one piece alone hut we have been the victim of

that they seem to have been taken hy someone from the inside is particularly distressing."

Henry Wemyss, a specialist in early English watercolours at Sotheby's, is helping to com-pile an inventory of the club's art. He said: "When I heard that some pictures were missing, I wasn't surprised. I wouldn't condone it, but you sort of expect a small number to go missing over the years.

However, I was surprised when I heard bow many had gone. I understand it is now thought to be in the region of 50. I have not seen all of them, but the works by Whistler, Augustus John, Samuel Palmer, Laura Knight, Henri Harpignies and Van Goyen could all be of particular importance."

Mr Morris said he believed the missing items could fetch up to £1m at auction. He esti-

Palmer's Lonely Tower by Moonlight etching - to be "That so many pictures worth £150,000. The club's inhave gone missing is sad, but surers have rejected its claims because the pictures were

stolen so long ago. Other missing works include Sargent's Spanish Dancers; Knight's Circus Horses; Harpignies' Sunset; John's Girl in Red Dress and Blue Jumper; Hodgkins' Fishing Nets; and Whistler's St James Street, London.

While Mr Morris is determined to right the wrongs of the past, there will be those who would prefer to sweep them under the carpet, and a fractious period could ensue.

Nevertheless, the members of the club are stoical and know that worse things have happened. They still talk, with not a little schadenfreude, of the member who died, in the finest traditions of the Arts Club, from the effort of extracting the cork from a bottle

Cost of spy HQs to stay secret

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

THE SECURITY services, MI5 and MI6, overspent their budgets for luxury headquarters by an alleged £90m, according to a report by a public spending watchdog. But the Prime Minister has stepped in to block publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report into the

huilding of the London HQs. This means the truth about the overspending on furniture and fittings may never emerge. as Mr Blair has agreed the report contains sensitive information about the buildings that could harm security.

MI5 moved to its HQ, which was refurbished, at an estimated cost of £265m. MI6's offices cost an estimated £150m. plus £90m for adaptations.

MPs are demanding publication of the report and the release of information that would not harm the intelligence network under the Freedom of Information legislation being drafted by the Home Office.

The Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker said it was "outrageous" that secrecy laws were being used to hide the cost of carpets for Britain's spies. "I understand there has been a £90m overspend. It is outrageous that this report cannot be published. All material that was sensitive could be taken out, but we're talking about ordinary equipment. like furniture, plants and carpets. And we're talking about public money. There should be accountability" he said.

Mr Baker called on Mr Blair to publish the NAO report in a recent Commons written quesbon, but Mr Blair said: "No. The reports on the purchase and fitting out of Vauxhall Cross (MI6) and Thames House (MI5) contain sensitive information. It is established practice under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information not to disclose information where disclosure would harm national security or defence." The issue highlights the

growing anxiety of freedom of information campaigners. David Clark, the former cabinet minister for the Cabinet Office. who was in charge of the legislation until being sacked, is worried that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. will seek a blanket ban on disclosure of all information concerning the security and intelligence services.

The Home Secretary has taken a hard line against those who argue that information should be released unless there is "substantial harm" to national security or defence. He is expected to insist on a wider interpretation of "harm" in the Bill to limit disclosures, and to exclude entirely information about MI6, MI5 and operational details involving the police.

Customs seize ivory and tortoiseshell 'Titanic' props

MORE THAN 30 props from the film Titanic have been confiscated because they are made from endangered species. Among them is the tortoiseshell hair clip worn by Kate Winslet in her nude modelling scene with Leonardo DiCaprio.

The film-maker 20th Century Fox used genuine Edwardian dressing table items, sending them from Britain to Mexico.

where filming took place. But when the props were brought back into England, Customs officials at Heathrow airport checked a box and found the items were made from parts of tortoises, elephants, crocodiles and a hippopotamus.

The props include brushes,

from a hippopotamus tooth and a book of common prayer with an ivory cover.

own goods made from animals such as turtles, alligators or tigers, owners who want to and bring them back have to get

killed, and goods made from them being brought back into the country under the claim

Although it is not illegal to that they are antiques," a Ann Ainslie of the Convention on the International Trade take them out of the country in Endangered Species said: "The agent applied for retro-

boxes and cigarette holders. toms and Excise. "This is to refused by the Department of pool - 'Titanic and Lusitania, There is a cigar cutter made stop endangered species being the Environment, Transport Floating Palaces of the Edand the Regions, as the agent knowingly shipped the items without obtaining a permit." A permit costs £10 per species, so for the sake of £40.

the film-maker has lost items worth bundreds of pounds. The items have given a boost to an exhibition at Merseyside Floating Palaces of the Edwardian Age'. It was relying on 20ft model of the Titonic as its main attraction. But the film props are likely to

draw higger crowds. It is not the first time that the owner of movie memorabilia has been caught out. Gloria Swanson's tigerskin rug suffered the same fate. She gave

Elinor Glyn. When she died, it passed to a relative who wanted to ship it from Los Angeles to her bome in Britain - but failed to get an endangered

species permit. After being confiscated, the rug went to the Customs and and Excise national museum in Liverpool, where it was renovated and put on display.













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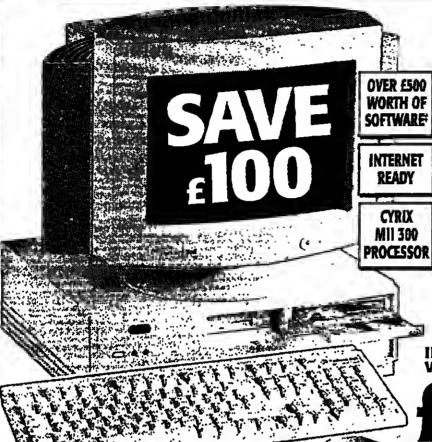
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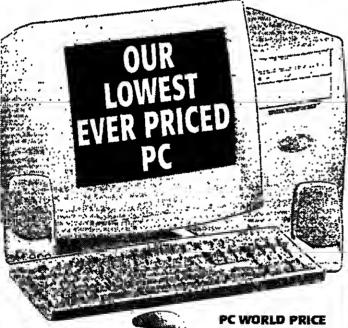
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Teenager is found dead by air crew

THE BODY of 18-year-old Sally By ANDREW BUNCOMBE Greig was discovered by police yesterday, four days after she disappeared at the end of a Christmas party.

Police declined to say whether they were treating her death as suspicious until the post-mortem examination had been completed hut there was speculation last night that she may have died from natural

Ms Greig, a dental assistant from Perth, was last seen alive in the early hours of Christmas Eve after attending a party with work colleagues at the Huntingtower Hotel on the outskirts of town, Several witnesses who saw her later contacted police to say they had been concerned for her welfare.

She was eventually found by a search team in an RAF helicopter yesterday lunchtime. Police bad earlier shifted the area of their operation after being contacted hy a witness. Ms Greig was formally identified hy her parents yesterday

At a press conference yesterday in Perth, Detective Superintendent Ian Watson said: We can confirm that a body



Sally Greig: Witnesses were concerned for her welfare

was discovered at around midday in a field at Newbigging Farm, just outside Perth. An RAF helicopter was able to join the search because of a hreak in the weather and after an hour the crew spotted the body of a young female lying in a field.

"The body, which appears to have been lying there for some time, has not yet been identified hut we have scaled down our search and we are awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination and until that happens we cannot say any more about the cause of death. I can say that her clothing was intact."

A peregrine falcon in a dive, during which it can reach 115mph

Det Supt Watson said a woman matching Ms Greig's description had been noticed walking alone along an unclassified road at about 12.30am on Christmas Eve hy a local woman who was driving with her family, He said the driver had spoken to the young woman after becoming concerned that she was alone at such a late hour.

A spokeswoman for Tayside Police said; "Information received overnight has suggested that Sally may have wandered off aloog an unclassified road near to the Huntingtower Hotel."

Earlier her parents, Brian and Barbara, had spoken of their growing concern for their daughter. Mr Greig said: "We obviously want to find out Sally's whereabouts and if there's anything at all wrong for her to contact her mum or her dad or friends, relatives or the police - just for her to get in touch to assure everybody.

"It's out of character for Sally to have done something like this, to have gone missing So if anyone knows anything at all please come forward."

The family were being comforted by relatives last night.

Peregrines are fastest bird in world – official

PEREGRINE FALCONS diving on their prey are the fastest hirds in the world, new research using radar has established.

The speed of their dive or "stoop" has been accurately measured for the first time by Swiss scientists, and has been shown to reach 115mph.

The figure is considerably lower than that given in many wildlife books, which say peregrines can attain 250mph, hut this, and many other top speeds estimated for fast-flying hirds, are now regarded as wildly exaggerated.

It still puts the peregrine well ahead of all its competitors. Its stoop kills prey such as ducks or pigeons outright by

The newly published studies accurately measured peregrines hurtling down at rates of up to 51 metres per second, which equates to 115mph.

Dr Matthias Kestenholz of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, one of the scientists who carried out the research, de-

John Daniels

By BRIAN UNWIN

scribed that as representing "the highest air speed of a bird accurately measured so

The peregrines involved in the research were measured with tracking radar, consid-

FLIGHT TIMES

The eider, the coastdwelling duck, has been found to reach a speed of about 47mph, followed by the Bewick's swan (45mph); the common crane and barnacle goose (42mph); the mallard (40mph); and the redthroated diver (38mph). Swifts have been credit ed with rapid flight hut their long, thin wings are not ideal for sustained speed. Common swifts. the species nesting in Britain, have been found

to fly at just 25mph.

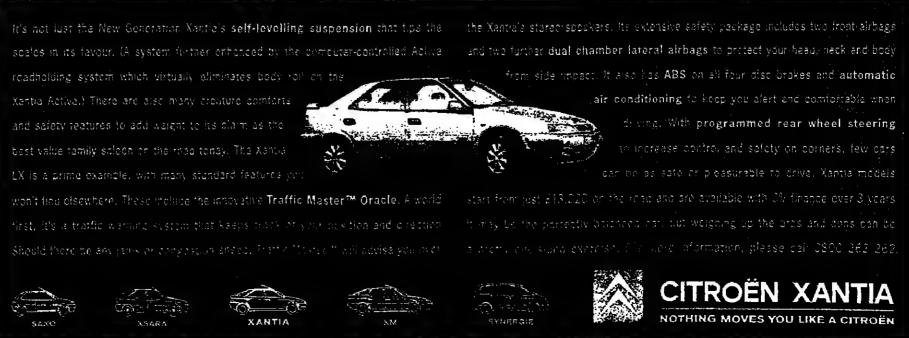
ered to be the most accurate method. It works on the same principle as police radar guns and locks on to the bird to track its movements.

Peregrines can he seen more easily now in Britain than at any time this century. Although still classed as rare and endangered, there are now estimated to be more than 1.000 pairs - one of Europe's

most thriving populations. Owing to hunting earlier in the century and then the effects of pesticides accumulated from their prey, there were only about 360 pairs in the early 1960s, many of them failing to hreed successfully. The recovery followed restrictions being placed on the use of pesticides and it has also heen helped by round-the-clock watches of nesting sites to protect them

from disturbance. However, peregrines still suffer problems from nestrobbers, seeking their eggs for illicit collections or young hirds for the lucrative overseas falconry trade.





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Therapy trial for cannabis

TRIALS INTO the therapeutic BY KIM SENGUPTA uses of cannahis are to take place with the official approval of the Government.

The Medical Research Council stated yesterday it would be prepared to rush through funding for the trials, involving more than 1.000 peopie, provided the necessary legal clearance was obtained from the Home Office and the Medicines Control Agency, the Government's licensing authority for prescription and ever-the-counter drugs.

Protocols for the tests will be decided at a meeting on 11 January to be attended by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. the council and the Department of Health. The tests are expected to take place in the spring. The agency will advise the scientists on the legal and regulatory aspects of the trials.

The initial tests are expected to cost up to £500,000 each. A spokeswoman for the council said: "Rather than wait for our normal funding reviews we do have the necessary powers to expedite special payments as in the case of BSE and cannabis for pain relief.

CJD. Ohviously this will be dependent on the tests getting approval."

The trials are expected to look at spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients, chronic pain for dying cancer patients and acute pain in patients after operations. Multiple sclerosis sufferers will receive the currently used treatment for controlling muscle spasms, a second set will be given tetrahydro-cannabinol (THC), a cannabis derivative thought to have an anti-sickness effect and a third group will be given standard cannabis plant material. THC is not legally available in Britain. However, the Home Office and the council have agreed to authorise exemption to allow the trials to take place.

Last month the House of Lords backed the use of cannabis for medical use and recommended a change in the law after an eight-month inquiry. Last week the Prince of Wales asked a multiple sclerosis sufferer if she had tried

IN BRIEF

School security grant 'inadequate'

TEACHERS SAID £22m in grants to improve school security was "inadequate" yesterday. Ministers said the funds were for projects in 14,000 schools next year to pay for schemes such as new fencing, closed-circuit television and staff training. But the teachers' union NASUWT said most schools were still vulnerable to intruders.

Blind pensioner dies after robbery

POLICE RENEWED appeals yesterday for help to catch thieves after the death on Christmas Day of a deaf and blind 93-year-old woman who had been robbed a week earlier. Eileen Harvey died after her Christmas savings of £300 were stolen by tricksters from her home in Portsmouth, Hampshire.

'Nintendo thumb' warning

UP TO three million children playing computer games they were given at Christmas could end up with Nintendo thumb". And youngsters surfing the Internet could face years of agony from bad posture and repetitive strain injury, said the charity, the Body Action Campaign.







Europe takes huge leap into unknown

THIS IS the week when Europe By Hamish MCRAE starts its gigantic experiment, the launch of a single eurrency for 11 members of the European Union.

It will soon be possible, for the first time since the fall of the rencies for another. Roman Empire, to travel from without having to change money.

The patchwork quilt of curused in their daily lives for more than 1,500 years is being replaced with a single one. The 1 January. It will swiftly replace the national currencies and, within three years francs, marks, pesetas, lire and so on will have become history.

It is an experiment in the sense that there is no precedent for such an event. There have been currency reforms. of course, where a country has decided to replace an old currency with a new one: Germany has done so three times this century.

Sometimes countries have chosen to link their money to that of a foreign power - many to the United States dollar. cerned. As for the importance There have been attempts by of the European Parliament countries to hind their curren- well, a quick test: can you name cies together, there was an at- your Euro MP? tempt at a European currency in the last century, which failed. And there have been occasions when a country has had its own money replaced with a foreign one, usually as a result of conquest, colonisation or some other political shock.

This is, however the first time that a group of countries in the framework of a national

which are not part of a political union and which have not been conquered or colonised have agreed to give up their own cur-

So anything said or written the Channel to the tip of Italy about the launch of the euro, and in particular its political and economic consequences, has to rencies that Europeans have be taken with a pinch of salt. We have to guess; we cannot know. This is a journey without maps.

What we can do is make a euro becomes a legal entity on stah at gauging some of the effects of this decision. There is one clear political consequence, and a number of less clear economic ones.

Start with the political im-

pact of the new European Central Bank, the body that will "run" the euro. Up to now, the European political institutions have been quite weak. The key decisions supposedly imposed hy the Brussels hureaucracy have almost invariably been approved hy national governments; power still lies with the ministers of the countries con-

tion for Europe. All national countries have some sort of central bank to run their currencies. The recent trend has been to make that central bank more independent of the government, to give it more power. But central banks operate with-

Now there is a new institu-



There is no precedent for a group of countries that are not part of a political union voluntarily to give up their currencies for another

land has its independence because that has been given to it by a powerful parliament. The new European Central Bank in Frankfurt has been given its independence too, but the counterweight of the European Parliament is much weaker. In one sense, having a new independent body running the euro compensates for the weakness of other European institutions.

created a new focus of power,

sharply reducing the scope for

national parliaments to exert

their own authority. Remember

a single currency. It is getting a single interest rate, too.

That, at least is the theory. If you ask practical questions as to how the European Central Bank will exert its power, the answers are guesses. Will European interest rates be high or low? Will the currency be strong or weak? Will the bank pay more attention to the needs of the countries on the fringe or will In another sense, Europe has the big battalions dominate?

swiftly - and expect the prices If we do not know what sort to narrow down, not narrow up. of currency the euro is going to be, judging its economic effects impact on companies. Those and officials are determined to is ohviously hazardous. But with plants in different countries, impose common taxes, but be-

government: the Bank if Eng- that Europe is not just getting some things can sensibly be with different wage rates and said. For a start, giving Europe a single currency will give a spur to economic integration. The fact that prices are fixed in the same unit will mean that they will tend to converge. Buy a new car in Inverness and it will be pretty much the same price as one in Truro; buy a car in Copenhagen

That will have an enormous

and the price will be very dif-

ferent from one in Seville. Expect

those differences to narrow

productivity levels, will immediately be able to compare those differences. They will be forced to improve efficiency and Europe's economy will become more competitive as a result.

There will be other effects. We are already seeing the impetus for cross-European mergers; expect that to proceed apace. We are already seeing the impetus for a cross-European tax policy; the single currency will inevitably encourage that process. not because some politicians

cause the scale of the differentials will be exposed. The presaure for companies to pay similar taxes across Europe will grow, for if large differentials remain, they will relocate towards the lower tax zones.

So the European economy will become more integrated and more efficient. Some parts will benefit; others will find the new burst of competition very tough. The single interest rate will be a particularly powerful discipline. It is not just that some parts will have to operate on interest rates that are too high for their local needs, others that are too low. It is also that finance will tend to flow towards areas and projects that deliver the highest returns. Investors... will think pan-European, rather than in little national boxes. The leaders will bound forward, the

laggards will suffer still more. The fact that investors have a new common zone in which to operate will have one further impact - one that will, if the euro is successful, change Europe's place in the world. Since the Second World War there has been a single global currency standard, the dollar It has been. challenged at times by the yen and the German mark, and in the early post-war years sterling was bracketed alongside. But the dollar has really dominated. No longer. The euro will be close in value to the US dollar, backed by an economy of similar size. The world's currencies will have two anchors, not one. Will that be a source of tension or will they co-exist happily? Will

people trust the euro? And therein lies the greatest question of all. Will the euro succeed? History is littered with attempts at currency unions that have failed. I suppose the failure of the sterling area, made up of many members of the former British Empire, is as good an example as any. In fact, there has been no lasting currency union without a political union. So what Europe is attempting is a great daring, romantic leap into the unknown. As for Britain's role or non-role in this experi-



Just three days to get

ON THURSDAY, Europe's fi- By DIANE COYLE nance ministers will meet in Brussels to set the rates for converting their 11 national currencies into euros.

This will be followed by a champagne reception, but there will be little time to celebrate for 25,000 people in the City of London. As with their counterparts in Europe's flmany in New York and Tokyo - all UK banks have done every they will be hunched over their screens, acting as midwife to the euro. For it is in the financial markets that the single

currency makes its debut. The "conversion weekend" hegins on Thursday, New Year's Eve, when the staff of the central and investment banks responsible for putting the new currency into practice begin the mad scramble to switch over their computer systems.

They have three days to get it right. Some will grah only snatches of rest on office floors. The markets will reopen on 4 January with every share in the 11 member countries, every government or company bond, each derivative deal and all flows of money hetween hanks and hig companies redenominated from marks, francs and lire into euros. Every City bank has put a senior manager in charge of the changeover.

Bronwyn Curtis, handling the transition for Nomura, an investment bank, explains that everybody in the financial world has prepared to the extent of doing trial runs. But, she says: "A lot of it you can't actually do until the last minute."

The conversion will utilise the exact level of all financial market prices at the end of 1998, and the exact conversion rates. Huge numbers of computer files in virtually every bank on the planet will need to he amended. To add to the diffi**Economics Editor**

culties, different ways of rounding numbers can be used. The novelty alone is expected to lead to lots of mistakes.

Some are better prepared than others. The Bank of England, which has published quarterly reports on preparations. nancial centres-not to mention is concerned about whether thing they can to be ready for the crucial weekend.

Not only the financial markets will suffer a last-minute scramble. The treasury departments of all big corporations around the globe, in effect mini-banks themselves, have to make the same kind of computer adjustments.

And in euroland itself, every business from the smallest corner shop to the higgest multinational will have to start converting prices, accounts, wage hills and tax payments into euros. Although national currencies will continue to be legal tender until midway through 2002, when the new notes and coins are due to be in issue, their exchange rate will be "irrevocably fixed" in terms of euros. The citizens of the II members will have to become wizards at converting from one to the other.

So will Britons travelling to the euro-11 countries. Travellers will still use the familiar cash, but they will find two differences: shop and restaurant prices will often be shown in both euros and the national currency, and their credit card hills will show just euros - with a euro worth around 70p.

Ms Curtis says many in the financial markets did not for a long time expect this project to go ahead at all. "Now it's actually happening. It is very exhilarating - but also frightening."

Euro expected to displace dollar

THE EUROPEAN single cur- BY CLIFFORD GERMAN rency is expected to appreciate by as much as 10 per cent against the US dollar in its first year of operation. Central banks, especially in Asia and Latin America, will take the first opportunity for decades to diversify reserves by selling dollars and switching reserves into euros, although European interest rates are below US levels.

A report from the Centre for Economics and Business Research due later this week claims that China alone has more than \$100hn in its reserves and is already on record as wanting to switch to a hipolar reserve policy. Japan, the world's biggest holder of dollars, might also diversify into

euros. It has suffered recurring heavy exchange rate losses over the years as the dollar has depreciated against the yen.

The euro could also appreciate against the pound, creating a window for the UK to join the European single currency at a lower and more realistic rate than the current 70p - and give UK exporters one final shot in the arm before currencies are fixed permanently.

Upward pressure on the euro as central bankers huy the currency will increase deflationary pressures on European economies, though, as the rising exchange rate prices EU producers out of world markets.

مكذا من الاحل





Tony Blair: Seen as key counterbal- Wim Duisenberg: Selected as contiance to French and German influence nent's second most important person Europeans of influence







The Pope: Named among the top four Mary Robinson: The highest placed Umberto Eco: 'Name of the Rose'



Emma Bonino: Commissioner for

Blair voted the leading European

TONY BLAIR is the most im- BY STEVE BOGGAN portant person in Europe, according to a survey by The independent of some of the Cootinent's most powerful and influential people.

Somewhat surprisingly, given his failure to lead from the front in Europe, the Prime Minister is considered more influential than either Wim Duisenberg, head of the new European Ceotral Bank, or Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor.

The survey also suggests that Mr Blair's influence should not be underestimated by either the French or Germans. Other European nationalities appear to see the Prime Minister as an effective counterbalance to their haste for European political integration. "He knocked some sense into Labour by his Third Way" said one of the pjudges, Hans Labohm, of the Netherlands Institute for International Relations.

The survey, thought to be the first of its kind, attracted replies from more than 200 governmeot ministers, politicians, economists, industrialists, leading cultural figures, trade unionists and academics from 11th place, one ahead of the

the 15 countries of the European Unioo.

Overwhelmingly, the replies demonstrate that voters regard the politicians with the power to shape the Continent as its most important citizens.

Included in the top 10 are the Pope, the former German chancellor Helmut Kohl and Jacques Delors, former president of the European Commission who was described by John Monks. general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, as "the most effective leader of the European Commissioo which hecame a highly creative secretariat".

They are followed by the German Finance Minister, Oskar Lafootaine; the French President, Jacques Chirac; the president of the Bundesbank. Hans Tietmeyer; and the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, who led the so-called "velvet revolutioo" in 1989. Swedish MEP Per Gahrton described him as "the only president who in office succeeded in preserving some of his dissident soul".

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, managed only

media tycoon Rupert Murdoch. while joint Nobel Peace Prize winners John Hume and David Trimble from Northern Ireland came in at 13th.

Only three women made the top 25: Mary Rohinson, the **United Nations Commissioner** for Human Rights, according to one judge "a fervent nationalist, highly respected", the European commissioner Emma Bonino and Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general of the World Health Organisation.

Two Americans made the list - the world's most powerful man, President Bill Clinton and the most powerful industrialist. Bill Gates of Microsoft.

Not all nominees were in-

dustrialists or politicians. Artists, writers, musicians and sportspeople all featured on the fringes of "importance". The violinist Lord Menuhin took 25th place, edging out Baltasar Garzon, the Spanish judge seeking the extradition of the former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet, Anita Roddick, founder of Body Shop, placed the judge at number one. "He is making human rights the inescapable issue it must be," she said.

Using a weighted voting sys-

CONTINENT'S TOP 25

. Tony Biair, British Prime Minister

2. Wim Duisenberg, head of new European Central Bank 3. Gerhard Schröder, German Chancellor

5. Helmut Kohl, former German chancellor

Jacques Delors, former president of European Commission 7. Oskar Lafontaine, German Finance Minister

8. Jacques Chirac, French President 9= Hans Tietmeyer, President, Bundesbank

Vaclay Havel, Czech President, led "velvet revolution" 11. Lionel Jospin, French Prime Minister

12. Rupert Murdoch, media tycoon

13. Mary Robinson, UN Commissioner for Human Rights 14. John Hume/David Trimble, Nobel Peace Prize winners

15. Jacques Santer, President, European Commission

Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet president 17. Emma Bonino, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid

18. Bill Clinton, US President 19. Bill Gates, head of Microsoft

20. Umberto Eco, Italian author

21. Javier Solana, Secretary-General of Nato

22, Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general, World Health Organisation 23. Jose Maria Aznar, Spanish Prime Minister

24. Jürgen Schrempp, head of DaimlerChrysler

25. Lord Menuhin, violinist

tem, Mr Blair racked up 1,636 points, giving him a clear margin over his closest challenger Mr Duisenberg, with 1,580. Mr Schröder scored 1,182 points.

Leena Peltonen, Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Helsinki, gave an insight into why so many found Mr Blair attractive. He is. she

said: "The counterbalance to German politics".

But it was not only politicians and bankers whom our voters considered "important". Among

the more exotic nominees were the footballers Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane, the author Salman Rushdie, the actress Juliette Binoche, Lara Croft, heroine of the computer game Tomh Raider, and the French techno band Daft Punk.

However, most entries which appeared at first sight to be frivolous were accompanied by lucid and rational explanations. For example, David Rock, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and one of several who cominated Lara Croft in their top 10, wrote: "Ms Croft, the first virtual star, represents the future of the entertainments industry. One should not let her physical nonexistence count against her."

And Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisatioos, nominated the transvestite comedian Eddie Izzard because: "His love for all things Euro could be infectious for a cynical UK public."

Catherine Deneuve, the ac-

tress, appeared to attract a politicians, while the French large number of votes on purely sexist grounds. Rolf-Dieter Krause of WDR radio in Germany, voted for her "For showing that even women of [some]

age can be most attractive." Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, had Georgio Armani at oumber two in his top 10, although he provided no explanation as to why.

Gordon McVeigh, of the Cancer Research Campaign, put makers of Viagra at number one and the creators of Dolly the clooed sheep at number two, while the Danish trade union leader Rune Norgaard put Bono of U2 at number nine and comedian Ruhy Wax at 10.

Among the bad guys named were the Serb President Slobodan Milosevic, the French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and Marc Dutroux, the Belgian child murderer. Others who received votes

but fell outside the top 25 included Professor Stephen Hawking and Richard Branson.

Perhaps disappointingly, voting patterns sometimes lived up to national stereotypes. Many Germans, for example, concentrated on industrialists and

were more likely to include actors, artists and sportspeople

among their nominees. One child was nominated; Carl-Maurice Lafontaine, the baby son of Oskar Lafontaine. the German Finance Minister. He was chosen by Dr Christian Trippe of the German radio station Deutsche Welle, who wrote that Carl-Maurice was "the only persoo who can distract his father from destroying British lifestyle and eventually becom-

ing German chancellor... ■ The Independent wrote to opinioo formers and policy makers in the 15 member countries of the European Unioo and the European Commission in Brussels, asking just one questico: "Who in your opinico are the 10 most important people in Europe, ranked in order of importance?" After receiving 200 replies, we weighted the responses to reflect hoth the rankings and how often oames appeared.

Research by Cnthy Mnyer, Ciar Byrne, Katherine Griffiths, Kerstin Fischer, Fernando Botera, James Cadman nnd Will Mnndy.





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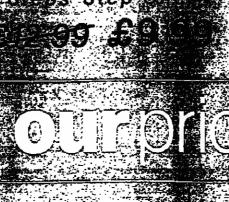
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Iraq vows to fire on air patrols

IRAQ REITERATED its defiance By JOHN DAVISON of Western military action, saying yesterday it would fire on any warplanes patrolling over its territory.

The statement, referring to flights enforcing the United Nations-imposed "no-fly" zones against Iraqi aircraft in the north and south of the country, could be the start of a new round of confrontation between President Saddam Husseln's regime and British and US air power. The Ministry of Defence has warned that British aircraft

ficials were giving the same message: "Iraq knows that it should not interfere with those flights, and our pilots can act in self-defence if they feel threatened at any time," a National

said in Washington. Two RAF Tornados, on patrol as part of Operation South-Watch nn Saturday ern morning, reported anti-aircraft fire five miles behind them.

Security Council spokesman

fired at Western aircraft attacking a post in the south of the country and warned that it would shoot again at any warplane over its territory. Its version of events was

> terday, but no incidents were Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's vice-president, yesterday repeated that his govern-

dismissed by both Britain and

the US. It is understood that air-

craft were again patrolling yes-

tion was taken. Iraq said it had this violation", he said. "The farce of no-fly zones must end. The so-called no-fly zones only exist in the British and American imagination,"

The US, Britain and France set up the no-fly zones under a UN mandate in 1991-92 to halt air attacks against Kurdish rebels in the north and Shia Muslim rebels in the south.

French aircraft are said to be reducing their involvement. Britain is represented by a dozen RAF Tornado GR1 jets based in Kuwait, which took

"do what they can to confront part in the four-day Operation Desert Fox bombardment of Iraq. Jaguar jets stationed at Incirlik, in Turkey, help to enforce the other zone, over northern

> Iraq has never recognised the zones and has occasionally confronted aircraft flying in the areas. The last big incident was in June. US officials said that a US F-16 fired a missile at an anti-aircraft site after Iraqi radar locked on to British planes on patrol.

> Iraq denied its forces threatened the British aircraft.

Sierra Leone rebels march on Freetown

THE GOVERNMENT of Sierra Leone, restored with the help of British mercenaries, was in increasing danger last night as rebels threatened to attack the capital, Freetown, within days.

Fighting in the former British colony increased yesterday as rebel forces captured a town only 12 miles outside the capital. As tensions rose in the city a mob burnt alive at least two men accused of spying for the rebels.

Later today the British High Commissioner, Sir Peter Penfold, will meet West African heads of state in the Ivory Coast capital, Abidjan, to discuss the crisis and offer Britain's continued support for President Tejan Kabbah. It is understood that while Britain may offer "logistical" support it will not offer any military

The fight against the rebels is being co-ordinated by the Nigerian-led Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Observer Group (Ecomog). The same coalition, aided by the mercenary firm Sandline, was responsible for restoring President Kabbah to power last February.

Ecomog has been reinforcing its forces in Freetown in anticipation of an attack from the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), led by Sam Bockarie.

Commander Yesterday Bockarie said: "We are going to march into Freetown on New Year's Day... We have the will and the way.

"When we start shelling the city we won't stop," said Commander Bockarie. "It's too

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

late for talking and listening." The rebels are believed to have taken control of Waterioo, a town 12 miles from Freetown. There was also heavy fighting yesterday in Makeni, 60 miles away in the centre of the country. Both sides claimed to have taken control of the town.

Ecomog forces said they had killed 50 rebels in bombing raids on RUF positions. An official at Ecomog's headquarters in Freetown said he expected Nigerian planes to go



into action again against rebels who had regronped at the Makeni Teachers College on the southeastern highway to Magburaka.

The college is on the edge of the city and close to Ecomog's main military base in the north.

"Most of the civilians in Makeni and the surrounding area have fled so we are only left face-to-face with the rebels," said the official.

While it was impossible to verify the claims of either side, the presence of rebel troops so

close to Freetown indicates a swift reversal in the fortunes of Ecomog, which has been confidently and repeatedly predicting the demise of the RUF for the past 10 months. Mr Bockarie said his forces had killed at least 100 Nigerian

troops. At today's meeting Sir Peter will stress Britain's support of President Kabbah. The two men regularly met after the President was ousted.

"The meeting will attempt to assess the situation. Sir Peter will make clear our support for President Kabbah," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Sir Peter was partly responsible for the involvement of Sandline in February's counter-coup, when arms and equipment were flown to Sierra Leone in breach of sanctions. Sandline's involvement triggered government inguiries into whether the mercenaries were encouraged to act by British officials. The company declined to comment yesterday.

President Kabbah was driven from power in May 1997 by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Koroma, who established a

military junta with the RUF. The President Is refusing to talk to the rebels, who are demanding the release of their leader Foday Sankoh - currently imprisoned and appealing against a death sentence imposed for his role in ousting

the President in May 1997. The Foreign Office said about 50 British nationals remained in Sierra Leone. Some 81 British and other European



Ski louts causing mayhem

MAYORS IN French mountain BY JOHN LICHFIELD regions are demanding a crack- in Paris down on ski-ing "hooligans" ies over the Christmas holidays and a disturbing rise in the

number of accidents last year. The mayor of Bresse in the Vosges wants gendarmes-ouskis for every slope. Several villages and towns in the French Alps have given the force of law to the "10 commandments" in the safety code of the international skiing federation. The tougher approach follows a 17 per cent increase in the num-

IN BRIEF **Hostages'** bodies

identified THE PROSECUTOR-**GENERAL** of Chechnya confirmed yesterday that four bodies found in a forest on Christmas Day were those of telecoms engineers from Britain and New Zealand taken hostage and murdered in the region earlier this year. The severed heads of the men were found in west Chechnya on 8 December.

Barbados will go to the polls

THE PRIME MINISTER of Barbados, Owen Arthur, has called a general election on the Caribbean island nation for 20 January. Arthur said his ruling National Labour Party would run oo its record of improving the economy.

He pledged a "clean,
vigorously contested poll"

Aircraft crash blamed on Unita

Democratic Labour Party.

against the opposition

ANGOLAN STATE radio yesterday accused Unita rebels of shooting down a United Nations plane carrying 14 people near a government-held town that Unita had been shelling for weeks. The C-130 transport plane crashed shortly after taking off from Huambo on

Tennis racket killer's plea fails

AN APPEAL court in Kuwait has upheld the conviction of a Kuwaiti woman sentenced to 10 years in jail for beating to death her Asian maid with a tennis racket, the Arab Times reported.

after a series of serious injurber of accidents on the French slopes in the 1997-98 season. There has also been a fracturestrewn opening to this season, attributed partly to new equipment, such as mono-skis and

ski-boards. But local officials and ski professionals also report a surge of bad and thoughtless behaviour. "We are in a time of everyone-for-themselves, of selfishness," said Jean-Louis Costerg, president of the In the event the court passed

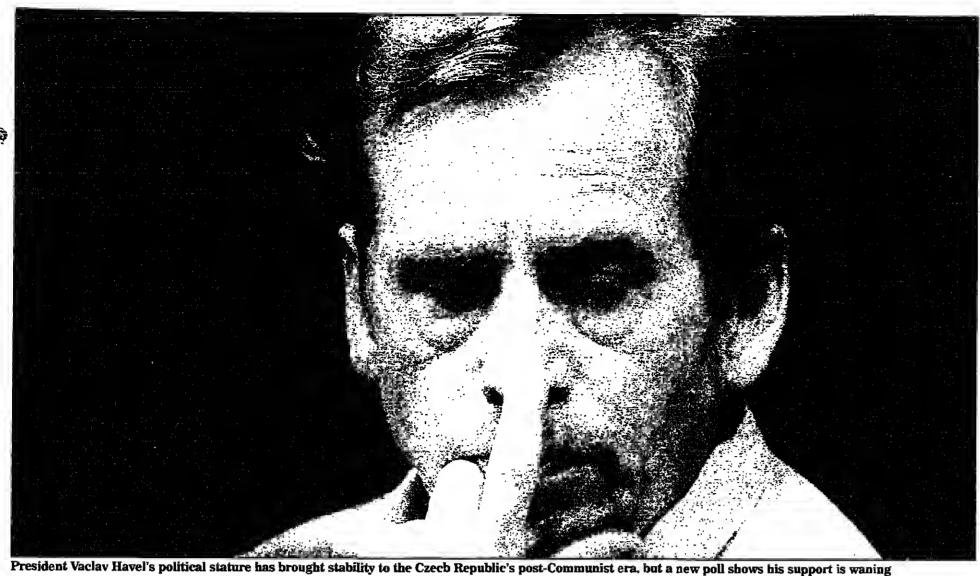
not in the snow." The stricter public tone was set by the deputy chief prose-

cutor in Albertville earlier this month, when he called for a three-month jail sentence for a teenager who collided with and killed a 10-year-old boy at Courchevel two years ago. "I intend to be very severe with everyone who thinks they can do whatever they please on the slopes," said René Ternoy.

French association of ski-slope a suspended sentence. Guy managers. "It's a social prob- Vaxelaire, mayor of Bresse, a lem, which starts in the towns, ski station in the Vosges, called for direct policing of the slopes on Saturday after four serious

accidents in the last week. The Prefect, or chief national government officer, in the Vosges département said he doubted it would be possible. The increase in injuries is attributed partly to the use of high-performance equipment by relative beginners. The sharpest increase in broken bones has been on the "easier" green and blue slopes.





Czechs turn against father of their Velvet Revolution

THE STAR of ooe of Europe's BY ADAM LEBOR few leaders regarded across the world as a moral titan is finally fading. Vaclav Havel. the Czecb President and former dissident whose struggle against communist tyranny encapsulated the revolutions of 1989 that toppled the Soviet his strength after an operation bloc, has lost the support of most of his population.

As the figure bead of the 'Velvet Revolution' that brought year after he suffered a down the hard-line Czechoslovak regime in November 1989, Havel for years enjoyed wide- mer became ill with pneumonia. spread support across the Czech political spectrum.

believe be should stand down. his sometimes turbulent private

in Budapest

the state demographics organisation, IVMM,

The reason cited by most respondents was his poor health. He has never fully recovered in 1996 to remove a cancerous tumour on a lung, and there were fears for his life twice this ruptured intestine on boliday in Austria at Easter and this sum-

Sensing his political weakness the Czech media have Now 55 per cent of Czechs launched repeated attacks on according to an opinion poll by life. President Havel, 62, mar-

ried his present wife Dagmar Veskrnova two years ago. His wife is not popular - 18 per cent of those polled believe she has a negative influence on him. Twelve per cent believed the President no longer had the

moral authority to govern. Although the post of president in the Czech Republic is largely symbolic, analysts say that Havel's moral stature helped to steer the transition between Communism and democracy, and was also an asset in belping to positioo the Czech Republic aloogside Hungary and Poland as frontrunners for EU and Nato membership

President Havel has also period of transition.

taken a clear moral line on issues such as the endemic anti-Roma (Gypsy) racism that tarnishes the Czech Republic's otherwise liberal image.

President Havel's westernleaning views and his artistic past as an acclaimed playwright have helped to attract foreign investment into a country seeo as stable under his

But his waning popularity is symptomatic of the end of an era, say analysts. There is a growing feeling across the Czech Republic that the time has come to move on from regarding their nations as post- our nation," he reportedly said. Communist states still in a

gary and Poland will join Nato next spring, and EU accession is expected to follow a few

years into the millennium. President Havel and his wife are oow on a convalesceot holiday in the Canary Islands, where they will spend three weeks at La Mareta royal residence on the island of Lanzarote as the guests of the Spanish King Juan Carlos.

Before leaving, be hinted that be would step down if his popularity continued to wane. "I assure you I will certainly oot be in office against the will of

The Czech Republic, Hun- Czechs, Havel remains the moral leader of the Czech Republic.

> "He is a real force for us, both domestically and internationally. For Czechs he is a linchpin and his name is equivalent to the size and strategic position of Poland," said Ivan Gabal, a former adviser to President Havel.

Even his political rivals such as the former prime minister Vaciav Klaus, whose Thatcherite-style privatisation policies while in office were not supported by the President, offered their support. "If politicians resigned in reaction to a But even with the latest single opinion poll it would be opinioo poll results, for many extremely bad," Mr Klaus said.

European Union debates education

The EU today threw its mem- had suggested. "A little ber states into some confusion about the long-term future of its proposed education policy. Education ministers are to meet today in Bruges to thrash out a compromise which should see the primary. secondary, and further education sectors implement a

The difficulties appear to be areane branches of centred around the fact, pre-viously mnoticed by high-EU sources, that differin countries actually speak inferent languages. Therefore the proposed plan which meant an across the board. meant an across the board. The central European all-embracing curriculuon has to see if quantum mergand string theory and string the same lessons at exactly challenging the

the same lessons at exactly challe in the round of the same time. It was further where three tigers were proposed that all teachers dentally let loose at rus would be based in Munich at and caused pandemon'a virtual dedu-centre and the central commercial

pupils across the EU would mets, so autmodion at one less than the emergence stroke the constant and their boat a management of the stroke the strok

of going to school. Everything was going to plan motil someone believed to be a lowly clerk at the European Education Ministry, pointed out that the idea was to fact some wonderful study completely usaless. The vast- pur time. I can think of majority of populs would three - straight off the

not be able to understand because they do not speak the language in which the pean monster isn't sk. lessons were to be taught. Professor Terry Stade, soon, all our childry consultant education; specime poisoned by classic to the EU. Insisted eral thinking which that the idea was not dead become all to in the prairie as some critical state Continent

fine tuning is all the idea aveoues have explored. Revac Esperanto as a univerly guage is one of these. everyone to speak I another, I personally (% the use of mime is all therein the for the next option, although for the munication of the munication of the ? mathematics or astrop this could prove

difficult." However, trials are underway involving}troupes and circus ack the central European

conduct all-less pais Sir, Neil Burrows, right training of the Temperature of the Tempera poses went ballistic we heard the latest EU pro-

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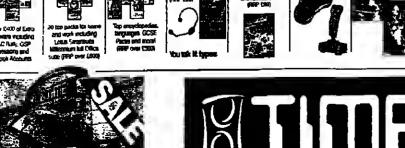
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Smallest Texas octuplet dies ONE OF the Texas octuplets By ANDREW MARSHALL

bas died. Chijindu Chidera. nicknamed Odera, died of heart and hmg failure early yesterday, the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston said.

She was born a week ago, weighing 10.3oz, the smallest of the children. All the babies, horn from

8 December to 20 December to Nkem Chukwu and her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi, are in intensive care. Odera was the fifth of the children to be born but ber con-

> dition began to deteriorate on Saturday. She was moved from a ventilator to an oscillator to im-

t's **Time** prove her blood oxygenation, hut her heart began to fail, despite the efforts of doctors. It's **Time**

"We are very saddened by the passing of our beloved baby Odera," said the parents in a statement through the hospital. "She is now safe with God in

in Washington

Heaven and we remain most grateful to Him for having blessed our lives with hers," the parents said.

The other babies are also in critical condition and the youngest, Gorom, is recovering from ahdominal surgery.

Two bahies - Ehuka and Ikem - remained on ventilators yesterday, but four others -Chidi, Echerem, Chima and Jioke - were breathing on their

Mrs Chukwu, who had taken fertility drugs, was in a stable condition yesterday morning, according to St Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

Few bahies as small as Odera - or her siblings - survive more than a few hours after birth. She would have been the smallest baby born at Texas Children's to survive.

Nixon's bigotry exposed on tapes

IN A YEAR dominated by reve- BY ANDREW MARSHALL lations of the intimate thoughts of Bill Clinton, the bons mots of a previous president have resurfaced. Previously censored sections of the White House tapes recorded 25 years ago by Richard Nixon have been played as part of a court case.

Mr Nixon thought women "a pain in the neck", loathed his cabinet and officials and held dim views of blacks, Mexicans and Italians. The case concerns government release of the tapes, which the Nixon estate is

The president, in a conversation about the role of women in government, said he doubted they were "worth the effort." As for black Americans, "you can usually settle for an incompetent, because there are just not you put incompetents in and get

along with them, because the symbolism is vitally important. You have to show you care." On other minorities, he said: "That's the problem, finding a

Mexican that is honest. And Italians have somewhat the same problem." After receiving what he considered insufficient praise from

his colleagues for a speech, he told Henry Kissinger: "Screw the cabinet and the rest. No more sucking around. From now on, they come to me. I'm sick of the whole bunch."

He thought little better of the armed forces, "God damn it, the military, they're a bunch of greedy bastards," Nixon said. They want more officers' clubs and more men to shine their enough competent ones, and so shoes. The sons of bitches are not interested in this country."





THE INDEPENDENT Monday 28 December 1998

Where Japan's fat fish are sold to the fat cats

IT'S QUARTER to six in the morning, a few degrees above freezing, and I am standing in a dim shed on the edge of a murky quayside where a unique scene is being enacted. blue-fin tuna, the most es-

Below the strip lights, groups of middle-aged men in fish, and this is the daily aucoveralls and rubber boots are tion at Tsukiji fish market, the prodding and pinching at hundreds of silvery-white objects lined up in rows across the con- like this in the world: in a good crete. They look like frosty tor- year 850,000 tonnes of fisb pedoes or mysterious pods from outer space. A thin steamy vapour rises from them, and there are yellow labels stapled to their fins.

At six o'clock exactly a beli is rung, and the din redoubles as everyone in the shed starts simultaneously shouting and gesticulating. Strings of numbers and names can be heard; a man with a pot of red goo moves among the silvery torpedoes and brushes an elegant character on to the side of

CITY LIFE

teemed of all Japan's many place where sushi comes to die.

There is nowhere else quite much of it still wriggling and thrashing - is hauled up on to the quayside on this eastern edge of Tokyo and laid out for auction in the shed alongside it. Like a medieval market, an entire community of suppliers has grown up around the trade, selling knives, hooks, boots, weighing scales, gloves and the tonnes of ice the market gets through every day. It is a spectacle of noise and colour, as aproned men drag carts bearing buckets of fish: the deli-

cious, the repulsive and the

weird. But beneath the surface much has changed in Japan during the past year and Tsukiii. like the rest of the country, is in a state of anxiety.

In any recession, food is the last thing people stop buying and, as the world's greatest piscivores, there is no danger the Japanese are going to stop eating fish. By the standards of recent European slumps, or by the economic crisis devastating south-east Asia, the hardship here is dif-ficult to pin down - for though the economic figures show an economy unquestionably in decline, Tokyo still looks and feels one of the most prosperous cities on earth.

The point is that Japan's fall has been from heights so lofty that they appear, looking back.

like a dream. At the height of the famous Bubble Economy, the Japanese were spending at such a level that ideas of what was normal and sustainable were lost. The tuna sellers of Tsukiji were the beneficiaries, and then the victims, of this bizarre period.
Of all the elements of the

auction, the most important part is that which precedes the opening of the bids - the poking and caressing of the fish by the tuna buyers. "You see, tuna are all different like people," says Osamu Takahashi, who has been doing the job for 16 years. "And it all comes down to the amount of fat."

The lean, red, tuna sells in the auction for as little as 1,000 yen (£5) a kilogram – even after the numerous middle men and transporters have added their mark np. This translates into something that the average family can afford



Tokyo fish market dealers inspecting the fish and putting their prices on them at auction Fujio Yokoyama/AF

with its layers of sweet marbled fat - which Mr Takahashi tries to identify and which, even to the wholesalers, costs 10,000 yen (£50) a kilo or more. Fatty blue-fin tuna - served

the food of the Bubble Economy. It was consumed by executives on expense accounts and at top-class restaurants called ryotei. There an evening

thousand pounds. But in the recessions, expense accounts at the ryotei were the first luxu-

But it is the pale, pink toro as sushi, rolled with rice, sea-with its layers of sweet mar-weed and even gold leaf -was of food and sake, served by same, but sometimes half the hostesses, routinely cost a few fish are unsold," says one fish are unsold," says one Tsukiji stall-holder. "It's the politicians who used to go to the ryotei. They just aren't spending anymore.



B

Activist jailed for leaks to radio station

CHINA CONVICTED its fourth BY PAUL ECKERT dissident in a week yesterday, jailing a veteran labour activist for 10 years for passing information on rural unrest to USbacked Radio Free Asia.

The court in central Hunan province also stripped Zhang Shanguang of his political rights for five years for telling a Radio Free Asia interviewer about farmers' protests, according to Human Rights in China, which is based in New

The Huaibua Intermediate Court took 30 minutes after a trial lasting two hours and 20 minutes to sentence Zhang, who was escorted to the court building by a convoy of 20 police vehicles.

founders of a banned opposition party and the issue of an antisubversion decree in line with Zemin that all threats to stability be "resolutely nipped in

Zhang's case "clearly shows repression of democracy activists will soon get under way", the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China, which is in Peking

statement. On Friday, court officials confirmed that Zhang would be the subject of a closed-door trial yesterday. According to Human Rights in China, Zhang was accused of "illegally providing intelligence to overseas enemy organisations and people".

In an interview with Radio Free Asia in March, Zhang of a demonstration in Hunan's Xupu county by about 80 farmers against excessive taxes and another protest that resulted in fatal violence.

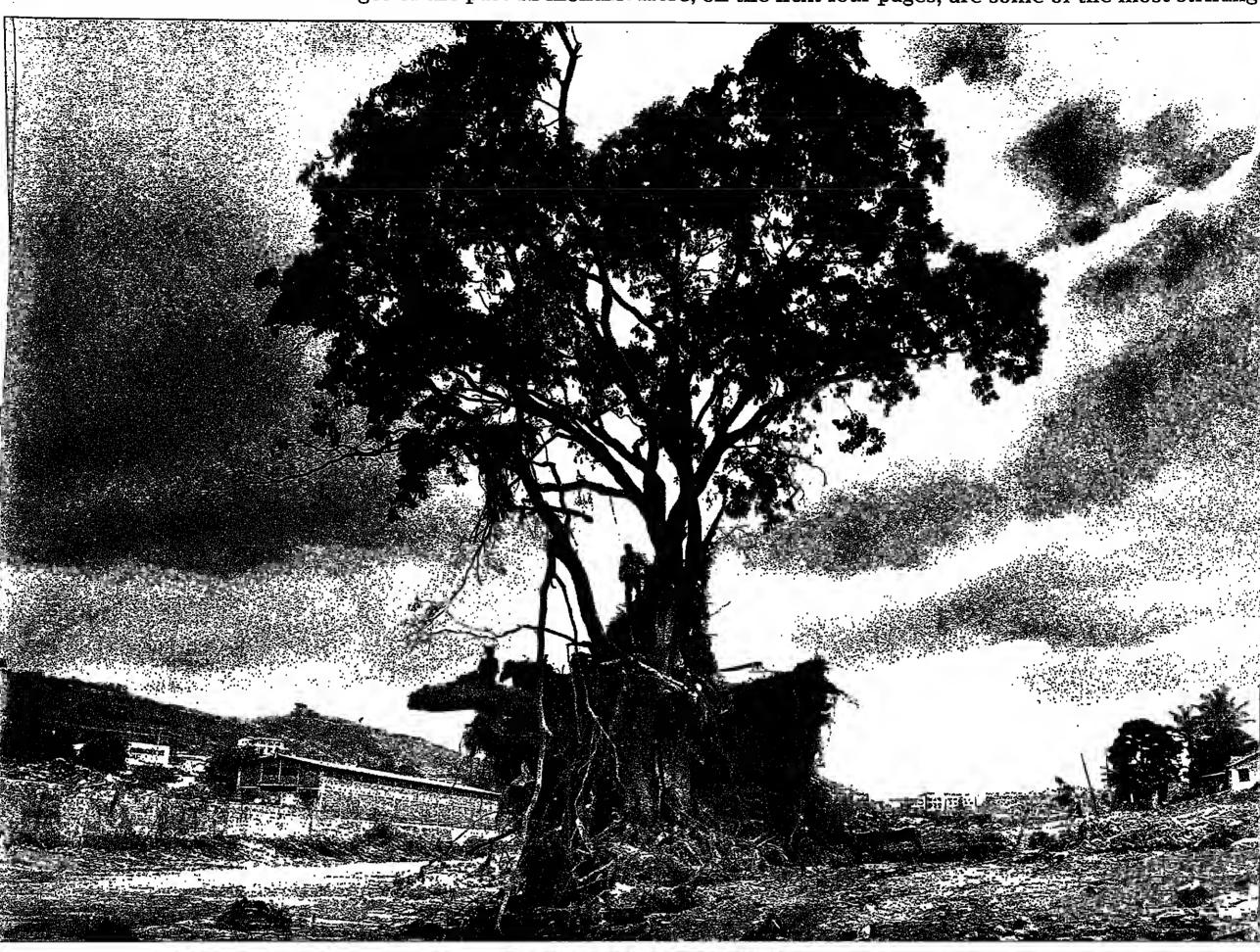
China views Radio Free Asia, which is funded by the US government, as hostile to com-The sentencing of Zhang munist rule and blocks its follows the jailings of three broadcasts. In June, Peking refused to grant visas to Radio Free Asia reporters to cover President Bill Clinton's visit. an order by President Jiang Peking bas also lobbied other countries not to let the network set up transmission stations on their territory.

Zhang, who served seven that the second wave of years in prison for a previous conviction based on his role in pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, is the fourth opposition figure to receive a lengthy sentence in the year-end crackbased in Hong Kong, said in a down on dissent. (Reuters)



PICTURES OF THE YEAR

From the horror of wars, the emotion of the World Cup or the simple pleasures of family holidays, this newspaper was nome to the most distinctive images of the past 12 months. Here, on the next four pages, are some of the most striking





For a photograph to illustrate a feature on Britons who holiday at home, Tom Pilston of "The Independent' travelled to Skegness for this timeless scene of family chaos and simple fun. It was a July day and - suitably enough - the weather was pretty overcast,' he said



David Rose found this family of Albanian Kosovar refugees fleeing the Serbs along a deserted road last February. He said: 'There was no one for miles around and I felt quite invasive, but it was so important I felt I had to take the photograph'



The day after Ron Davies resigned as secretary of state for Wales he held a photo-call for the Welsh media. Freelancer Brian Jarrett of the Huw Evans Picture Agency captured the tell-all 'Sorry' scribbled on the politician's hand. It seemed to sum up everything,' be said

'It was quite simply devastation on an epic scale,' remembered David Rose of 'The Independent', who photographed this astonishing scene at the Choluteca River in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch ripped through the Caribbean and Central America last month. Homes, hillsides and people were swept away as the hurricane tore apart the countryside. Mitch was the fourth worst hurricane on record and claimed up to 20,000 lives in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador







On 7 August, terrorist bombs exploded at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, attacks that were to result in retaliatory air strikes by America against alleged targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. A total of 224 people were killed by the embassy bombs and more than 5,000 were injured. When we heard there had been an explosion I went straight away – I just ran down there, said Khalil Senosi of the Associated Press Nairobi bureau. It was chaos. It was difficult to work because there were so many people there trying to help'



Above: Young, white, male aggression killed Stephen Lawrence and its ugliness was defined in this moment captured by Paul Hackett of Reuters. The five men. accused by one new paper of murdering the black teenager, lashed out at those taunting them outside the purlic inquiry they had to be forced to attend and whose questions they refused to fully answer.

Left: John Edmonds, president of the TUC. was having a laugh during a photoopportunity at the annual conference in September. He wasn't laughing after John Voos of 'The Independent' took this picture, which he felt made him look silly. 'I overheard him the next evening threatening to kill the photographer who took it,' Voos recalled.



Just because each had once led the party did not necessarily mean Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath were interested in everything being said at the Conservative Party conference, as Paul Bates of Rauters discovered. Perhaps those Ikea chairs were just a little too comfortable



The Scottish team may not have been the greatest footballers at France 98 but their fans were certainly among the most high-spirited. Brian Harris, chief photographer of 'The Independent', came across this bunch celebrating scoring a goal in a friendly kickabout in the shadow of the most famous monument in Paris

😨 🗆 😝





Bill Clinton will look back on 1998 as one of mixed emotions. David Rose of The Independent took this portrait of the US President on a visit to Northern Ireland where he was feted for helping to broker the peace agreement. From then on, it was downhill all the way

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Three young friends, James Barker, aged 12, Sean MacLaughlin, 12, and Oran Doherty, 8, all from Buncana, were among the 29 people killed in the Omagh bomb atrocity in August. Their joint funeral in the small town in Co Donegal was terrible, gut-wrenching and packed with people who came to pay their respects and mark their revulsion at the terrorist attack. On a day when the world's media was out in force, Ian Waldie of Reuters captured this image of a coffin lost in a sea of heads



In April, forest fires raged throughout huge parts of South-east Asia, blanketing the skies with smog. David Loh of Reuters found this terrified girl at Pujut Corner squatters' camp in Malaysia after a fire left hundreds amilies without homes



Arrest, questioning and the constant attention of the secret police were all obstacles Tom Pilston of 'The Independent' overcame to take this portrait of the Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. 'She had tremendous poise, tremendous dignity. She looked had a president-in-waiting,' said Pilston, who then had to smuggle his film out of the country

WITH NOTHING TO PAY **UNTIL THE YEAR 2000**

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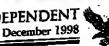
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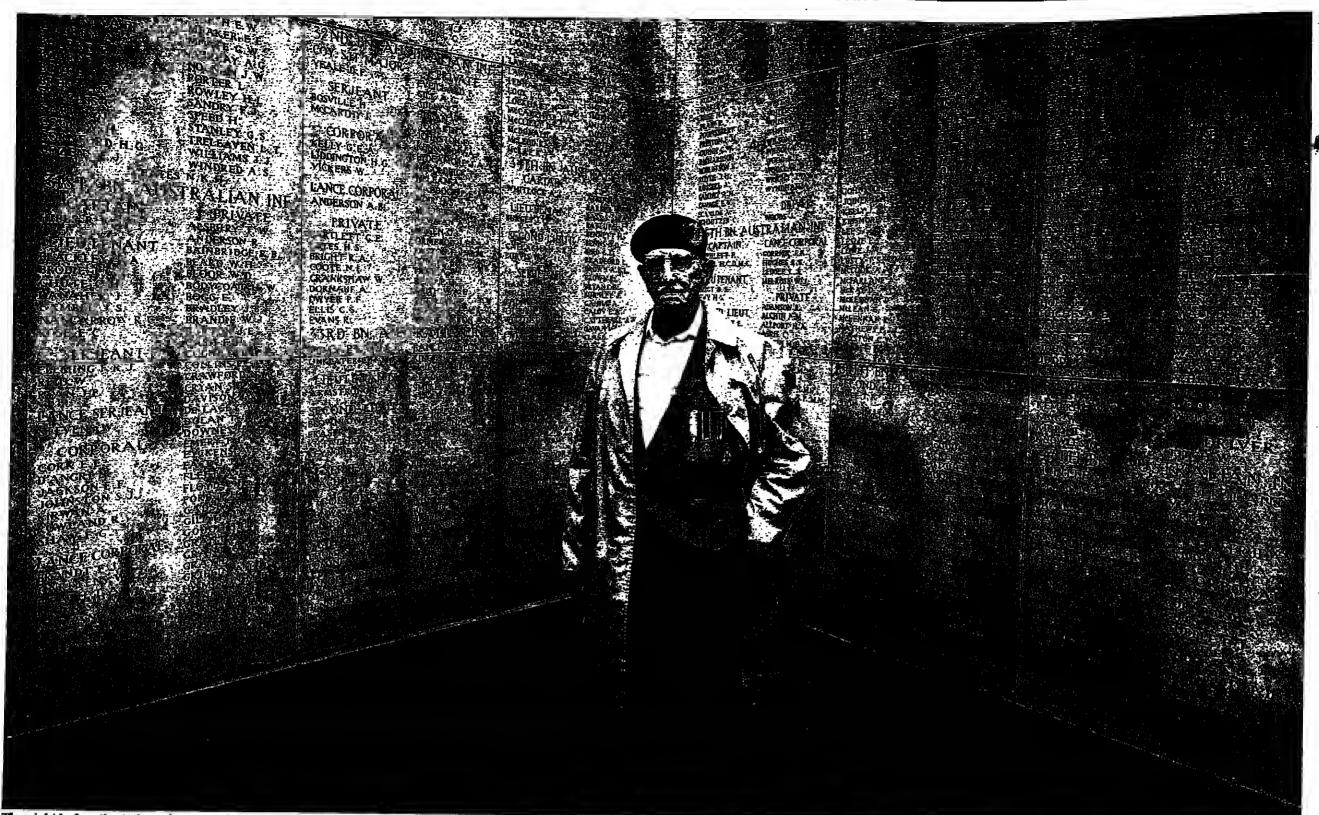


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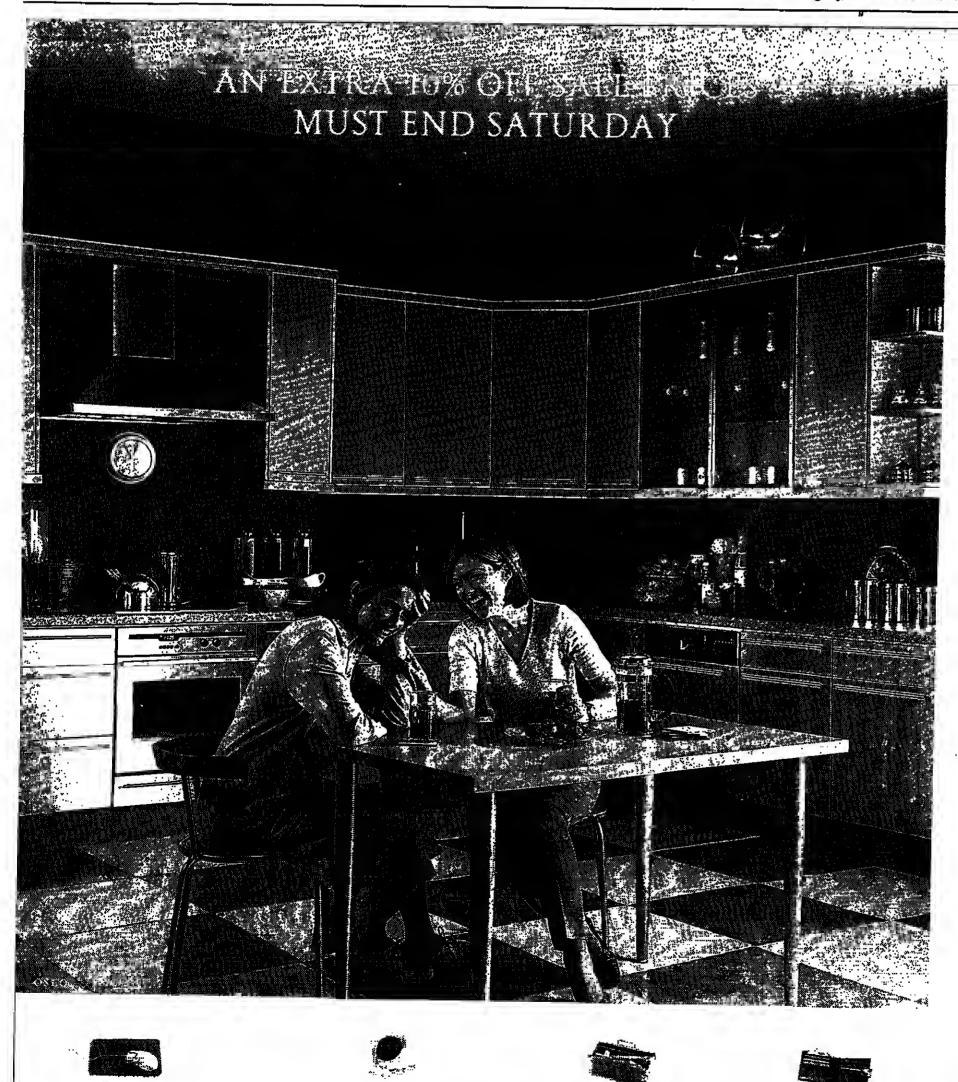
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The night before the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War, Brian Harris met Robbie Burns, a veteran, in a hotel bar at Ypres. He was just two days from his 104th birthday hut the former member of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders agreed to be photographed at the Menin Gate memorial. I didn't want to make a compromise picture that had no dignity,' said Harris. In Mr Burns, I found someone who encapsulated everything'



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SPORT

Beturn to France 98: Both the hosts and the Caribbean outsiders have benefited from the World Cup effect

The boom that followed the glory

THE OPTIMISTS said the French vic- BY JOHN LICHFIELD tory in the World Cup would change in Paris everything, the pessimists said it would change nothing. Politically, the in parts of the Paris region, teams jury may still be out. (On the whole,

the verdict is likely to be positive.) In sporting terms, there is no argument. France has gone football mad. Six months after "les hommes d'Aime Jacquet" defeated Brazil 3-0 at St Denis, France is running out of room in its stadia to fit would-be fans; it is running out of football pitches to accommodate would-be players. The average crowd in the French First Division this year, up to the winter pause, was 18,959.

In the same period last year, it was 15,780. This is an increase of more than 20 per cent. Crowds in the Second Division - previously a contradiction in terms - are also up by one fifth, averaging just under 6,000. Even more encouragingly for the future of football in France, junior leagues and clubs have been beieged by youngsters, and some not o young, wanting to play the game played by Zinedine Zidane.

The new recruits are pouring in so rapidly that the Fédération Française de Football has not officially counted them all yet. But the best guess is that another 240,000 French people have joined football clubs since the World Cup - an increase of about 12 per cent.

Many thousands of these recruits come from the troubled suburbs of the larger French cities. In the Ilede-France, the greater Paris region, new players are joining at a rate of 250 a day. Hamar, a 33-year-old youth worker and voluntary football each in the eastern suburbs of Paris, said: "As far as the kids round here remember it. France and not win the World Cup. Zinedine Zidane won the World Cup. To see a man who comes from the same hackground as them - it is not even just a question of race - leading the French team to victory opened these kids' eyes. Everyone wants to be a

Bixente Lizarazu, miership and Serie A. Christophe Dugarry and Fabien Barthez but also traditionally the home of both codes of rugby. The clubs, and their players. He also anch rughy federation admits that it has been steadily losing much greater fee for televising young players to football since the World Cup - especially in its south- out in two years' time. The aim, he western fieldom. France, compared to Britain, is already well endowed dine Zidane - and the future Zidanes with municipal football pitches, even now squeezing on to pitches all in the most remote rural areas. But over France - should win internaabruptly there is a shortage of tional trophies with French clubs as spaces to play on. In Brittany, and well the French team.

are stacking up on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to occupy the same piece of grass. In the Rhône-Alpes region, handball pitches have been commandeered for five-a-side football gamea. There is talk of launching a public campaign - "operation 1,000 terrains" - to build 1,000 new football fields.

There is an equivalent problem at the top of the football pyramid. Apart from the grounds rebuilt for the World Cup, French stadia are rel-atively small. With the boom in interest, many clubs are operating at or near to capacity. The World Cup victory accelerated, rather than reversed, a trend. Crowds had already been growing steadily in recent years.

This season all clubs have bene fited from the Zidane-Jacquet effect - save one. Paris St-Germain, the wealthiest club in French football. packed with highly paid hut perennially under-achieving stars, are finally losing their long-suffering fans. Financially, French professional football - although continuing to groan about the unfair tax burdens it faces - is in healthy condition. Six years ago the professional clubs made a combined loss of £120m per year, they expect, on the half-time results, to make a modest profit of around £5m this year.

On the field, the French best are competing with Europe's best on more or less equal terms. Three French clubs - Marseilles, Bordeaux and Lyons, also leading the championship in that order - made it through to the last eight of the Uefa Cup for the first time. (Lens gallantly failed to qualify for the final stages of the Champions' League; PSG abjectly crashed out of the Cup-Winners' Cup). But an ambitious new breed of football club presidents, led hy Gervais Martel of Lens, believes that the French clubs must now use This is even true in the south the springboard of France 98 to west. the home of Didier De- catch up permanently with the Pre-

Martel is campaigning for a much better tax regime for professional wants French TV channels to pay a matches when the present deals run says, should be to ensure that Zine-



In the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe, football fans start the Paris party after the French team won the World Cup on home soil in July

Reuters

Rise of the 'Reggae Boyz' inspires island harmony

"EVER SINCE we qualify for the World Cup, football has taken the front of everything," murmured Walter "Pearl" Boyd, the erstwhile bad boy of Jamaican football, with a grin. "Now it's nothing but kids where juggling a ball every minute of every day. Even the school books are full of football - that's the main thing to make them learn."

Almost a year on from the ecstatic moment when Jamaica's team, mainly composed of talented part-timers, qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time in the island's history, football is higger than ever. It provides a hefty morale boost, a vital element of unity in this notoriously volatile and factional society and a fillip to Jamaica's flagging economy, hard hit by the decline of the Far East. Despite Boyd'a well-publicised

rows with Rene Simoes, Jamaica's technical director, over his cavalier and train-keeping and training sessions, the Reggae Boyz' World Cup run has made his name and his fortune, although he also acknowledges laconically that it has brought "girl trouble, man". With the whole island in ferment,

Simoes threw him out of the squad for indiscipline in the run-up to the event and even the Prime Minister, PJ Patterson, begged for his reinstatement. Boyd bought an airline ticket and flew, weeping, to New York to implore the Brazilian to give him back his place.

"My mother said I couldn't sleep in the house until I apologise to Rene and get back in the team," the 26year-old confessed sheepishly in the darkness of the cluttered parlour of his family's tiny breeze-block bungalow in the working-class Kingston suburb of Nanny Town. His persistence paid off and, although not in the starting line-up for the matches in France, he came on as a substitute in all three games. Back home, Boyd, is delighted at

the peace which his side's success brought to warring factions within the city. Earlier this month be scored the winner for the national side in a friendly against a team combining the top players of two Premier Leagues teams from some of the toughest areas in Kingston – Arnett Gardens and Tivoli Gardens, traditionally hitter rivals whose joint participation would have been unthinkable until now. Four years ago,

"The Reggae Boyz caught everyone's imagination," Simoes recalled. "They were the Cinderella team, mainly amateurs - bell-boys, truckdrivers, who became the first country to qualify without money or modern facilities.

"When I arrived in 1994 I refused to accept the widespread idea that Jamaicans were late, lazy and wouldn't work, and they proved that if you had a dream, trained hard and played as a team, you could topple sides with



Jamaica's Walter Boyd (left) against Argentina

security reasons on the Jamaican Defence Force field, was abandoned after a near riot and a shooting in the

Earlier this month the two met again in a showcase "peace game" played with the utmost good humour, rival supporters walking together for the first time in 25 years through once-violent feud-ridden sections of ghettoes such as Trench Town. There was scarcely a scuffle, in the latest example of the new-found unity and sense of national pride that in December produced the first eral played their first football. He has Jamaica could have."

big money and big-name stars. All the same we had so little infrastructure lower down that capitalising on the Boyz' success was like trying to build

Allsport

a house from the roof downwards." The team have remained folk heroes and in huge demand for pubhe appearances and good works. Most donate a proportion of their fees to charity and last week they endorsed a rubella project by undergoing a televised vaccination. Simoes, a deeply religious man, insists that his stars stay in touch with the ghettoes where sev-

violence-free elections in living just donated a set of football strips to the newly formed team of a community school on a patch of waste ground in Trench Town.

The children, most with literacy problems and from chaotic, dirt-poor hackgrounds, talked of the thrill they felt at their own links with the national side. "We are so proud of the Reggae Boyz," stammered 14-yearold Michael Reed, the team captain. "Professor Simoes hrought us pictures of the team and gear, which uplift our spirits."

At senior level more companies are offering sponsorship to align themselves with the national side's success and under a new Adopt-a-Player scheme, major firms such as Texaco and Rent-a-Car are helping to fund the national squad's salaries. Playing standards are rising with only certified coaches allowed to train sides in the top two leagues. Until now these have been amateur but plans are afoot for a professional league of the leading 10 sides within two years.

The island's economy has also benefited despite the recession. The national carrier, Air Jamaica, flew in seven per cent more visitors this year than over the same period in 1997, while Sandals, the all-inclusive hotel chain, has seen the numbers of holiday makers go up by more than three per cent.

Oliver Foot, of Air Jamaica and the son of the island's last British governor, attributes this in part to the boost the World Cup gave to morale. "The Reggae Boyz' impact has been tremendous," he said. "It has helped unify Jamaican society and altered

its old violent image. Simoes is realistic about the challenges ahead but elated by the progress so far. "What we need now are imaginative policies, better education, more jobs," he said, "but the hope and self-belief and discipline are starting to show. The Reggae Boyz are the best ambassadors

Gamblers and Christians united in name of sport

Start of Play: The Curious Origins of our Favourite Sports By Janathan Rice Prion, £14.99, hardback

IN 1907, eight years after his finest hour, Vere Thomas St Ledger Goold was apprehended with his wife at Nice railway station in possession of two trunks which were found to contain the remains of a Danish widow suspected by Mrs Goold of having an affair with her husband. He remains the only Wimbledon finalist to end his life

on Devil's Island. It is exotic episodes like this that make Start of Play such an absorbing read. Rice sifts through the early traces - Julius Caesar kicking a skull across the River Brent, Indians playing pole with human heads wrapped in muslin, the charge against Mary Queen of Scots that immediately her second husband breathed his last, she repaired sharpish to the golf course - then devotes a chapter to each of the major ball games. There is not much in the way of Americana, but then as the word "our" in the subtitle suggests, this is a record of Britain's unique historical contribution to world

BOOK OF THE WEEK

ft is difficult to pin down absolute beginnings - versions of football and golf were played everywhere, for example. So the book concentrates on the last couple of hundred years, and particularly those intensely productive few decades of the last century when sports were organised and codified, the forces of privilege planting their flags and making sure the peasants

were kept out of the loop. As usual when sport is involved. the atory is sometimes venal. sometimes glorious (but mostly venal). Gambling was often the spur for development - even the original raison d'être of professional cricket, whose ranks swelled from 20-strong in 1840 to 500-plus in 1860, was to please the punters (tennis, the modern version of which was born in the back gardens of the bourgeoisie, was an exception).

Later, the proponents of an empire based on muscular Christianity took over, asserting their moral superiority over the moneygrubbers. All the Victorian sporting

pioneers, Rice notes, were of the ruling classes, though for him they were unwitting revolutionaries as well, setting in motion "huge forces for social change".

With respect to Rice, the ecademic bit should be left to the academics - he is on his shakiest. ground when attempting grand conclusions, painting with a broad brush. His skill is as a miniaturist. ferreting out the colourful details.

There is a succession of fascinating firsts and fabulous facts, for example - the first international (Scotland v England at golf 1681), the first cricket tour to be cancelled for political reasons (1789 - guess why), John Wisden's 10 cleanbowled wickets in an innings. And every chapter is embellished with deft characterisation and a lightness of touch that makes for easy reading.

Rice had a good idea and has executed it well. Major Walter Clopton Wingfield had one good idea - sphairistike, the precursor of modern tennis. But, as Rice says, he "moved on to other things; one of his later books was entitled Bicycle Gymkhana,"

One wishes Rice better luck with his future projects. **CHRIS MAUME**

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

1 Angry White Pyjamas, Robert Twigger (Indigo, paperback, £6.99).

2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).

3 Bleak and Blue – 22 Years at the Mauchester Academy of Football Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £8.95).

European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback,

5 Winter Colours - Changing Seasons in World Rugby, Donald McRae (Mainstream, hardback,

6 Elliott's Golf Form 1999, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00).

7 Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, bardback, £16.99).

8 Jenny Pitman - The Autobiography (Partridge, hardback, £16.99).

9 Playing at Home. John Aizlewood (Hallamshire Press, hardback, £16.95).

10 Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99, Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95).

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

LEOPARDSTOWN

1.30 WILLIAM NEVILLE & SONS NOVICE CHASE (Grade 3) £15,000 3m Penalty Value £9,713

Grade 3) £15,000 3m Penalty Value £9,713 Market 1 most Moscow Edress (29) (C) (D McNeby) Mss F M Cronkey 6 m to R Watch 2 osons pas Cana (29) (C D) Narroy Hogen Synd) M Hourigan 5 m to ... P G Hourigan (3) 327-331 CLOONE BRIDGE (23) (Ms K Glane) C Swan 6 m 7 N Williamson 1 hi-th Nick DURGE (83) (D) (Ms J Magner) E O'Grady 6 m 7 N Williamson 1 hi-th Nick DURGE (83) (D) (Ms J Magner) E O'Grady 6 m 7 N G Corter 8 002-31 SUPER DEALER (28) (D) (S Maryan) D Hughes 6 m 7 P Corter 9 6 Market 1 Symbig T Worth OLISAND (30) (W Michael) N Mascle 8 m 7 P Carbitry 7 669-22 POLYMAPL (NINE (29) (C) (A J O'Reily) M Morris 5 m 5 J P Titley 8 0022-00 THEAMARIE (30) (D) (S Griffin) E Griffin 9 m 4 J P Titley 9 50-215 MARKET LASS (29) (D) (J E Keeling) Ms J Harrington 6 m 2 J F Titley 9 50-215 Market LASS (29) (D) (J E Keeling) Ms J Harrington 6 m 2 J F Titley 1 moscow Express, 10-1 Cloone Bridge, Super Dealet, 16-1 others 1971: Boss Doyle 5 m m A P MicCoy 6-4 fav (M Morris) 8 mn F O R M G U I D E

FORM GUIDE

1997: Boss Dayle 5 11 11 A P NOLOY 6-4 as (in manual continuation)

FOR M GUID E

Moscow Express: 5-time winner overfences. Mississes when bin 2 lengths by Spendid at Chelleninam (2m11) and when 5 lengths 5th of 8 to Promalee at Fairyhouse (2m41 nov ch., good to soft). Big task at weights, but not out of it with a clear round nov ch., good to soft). Big task at weights, but not out of it with a clear round nov ch., good to soft). Big task at weights, but not out of it with a clear round nov ch. good to soft) and weight-4/hangs had of 9 to Promalee at Pairyhouse (2m41 nov ch. good to soft) and weight-4/hangs had of 9 to Promalee at Pairyhouse (2m41 nov ch. good to soft) but up in grade nade on note to be soft of the soft (2m51 soft) but up in grade Nick Dundee: Odds on for Gowran Park chase debut and length clear of his Cara Whan unseated at last. Easily made smends at Connel (2m41 min ch. soft), big when unseated at last. Easily made smends at Connel (2m41 min ch. soft), big super Dealer: Stayed on to beet Coo (Hard Venture sh hd at Punchestown (2m41 nov ch. soft) and should appreciate extra 4t but up in grade and something to find nov ch. soft) and should appreciate extra 4t but up in grade and something to find syndray Twothouseand: Made all for impressive chase debut when big Termooth 12 lengths at Fairyhouse (2m51 nov ch. good to soft). Listly to be a big factor Foodshape King; Genre 3th length 2nd to Promalee at Fairyhouse (2m51 nov ch. good to soft). Listly to be a big factor from the soft. But will struggle to confirm placings with 3rd-placed Inis Cara 3ib worse for a length. Still prome to enors.

Trestrates: Looks well held on chasting-debut 9th of 22 to Sydney Twothouseand at Fairyhouse (2m51 min ch. good to soft). Mischeel Length seek Mingre con chealing technic that of Cork. Eased from last when 17 lengths

Market Lass: Winner on chasing debut at Cork. Eased from last when 17 lengths 6th of 8 to Promalee at Fairyhouse (2m4f nov ch. good to soft). Plently to find

VERDICT: The merket has suggested NICK DUNDEE is a cut above average on both his starts, and he lived up to predictions with an impressive win at Clornel last are following his unitudy debut. There is more to come from the Supreme Leader geiding, who probably has most to fear from Sydney Twothousend and the experienced Moscow Express, who should be suited by a return to 3m.

2.40 ERICSSON CHASE (Grade 2) £75,000 BBC2/C4

FORM GUIDE

Boss Doyle: Winner 6 times from 6 starts last term. Binkared first time after one-paced 31 lengths 4th of 16 to Teeton MII at Newbury (3m2t heap ch, good to soft).

Erratic jumper with plenty to find at this level Buck Rogens: Lightly reced since beating Strong Platinum and Impenal Call at Punchestown (2m4t, yielding) 4 years ago. Encouraging hurdles correback but dif-

ficult to assess

Dorane Pride: 3rd in last 2 Chettenham Gold Cups. Jumped stickly when bin 11/2
lengths by Imperial Call at Punchestown (2m4f ch, heavy) latest. Vulnerable to en-

proving types
Florida Pearl: Unbeaten 3 starts over ferces Looked very smart prospect when
big Escartefigue 1% lengths in Sun Aliance at Cheltenham (3m1f, good) with plenty in hand. Something to find on the book but looks open to considerable improvement.
Merry Peoples 14-time winner over hardles and fences, but out of luck 13 starts
since Traise success in August 1997 and fooks out of his depth
Sonty Bay: Twice Grand Nasional runner-up. Career-best effort when big Escartefigue
(rec 4b) 5 lengths on Haydock (3m hosp ch, good to soft) on reappearance. Conditions in his favour and looks the one to beat

VERDICT: Floride Pearl has scarcely been put to the test over fences and has immense potential. A line through Escartefigue gives him a fair amount to find with the experienced SUNY BAY and it will be something of a feet if he can pull 4 off without the benefit of previous outing.

Rogens, 100-1 Merry People 1997: Impenal Call 8 12 0 C O'Dwyer 4-7 fav (F Sutherland) 4 ran

Mill sets standard for Pearl

THE FIRST FA (for animals) BY RICHARD EDMONDSON Cup semi-final was won by Teeton Mill on Saturday and the white crosses in the ground victory was so emphatic that those in the supposed better tie. the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown this afternoon, now have it all to prove.

Teeton Mill now bestrides Gold Cup at 3-1 with Ladbrokes and has supplanted the previoms market leader, Florida Pearl, who will be favourite for

Florida Pearl is a hig horse with a hig reputation and his performances matched that description last season when he won a prestigious povice chase in Ireland and the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. However, both Boss Doyle and Escartefigue. the borses he beat on those occasions, have hardly surrounded the form with blossom since. the first four places.

Florida Pearl, who will be ridden by Richard Dunwoody, will again have to promote himself today, and if be can beat both Dorans Pride and Suny Bay, Britain's top-rated chaser (until Teeton Mill is reassessed at It will not be easy though, as least), we can look forward to one of the great Cup finals.

after the Welsh National at Chepstow today as the going is once again treacherous for one of the most debilitating contests in the calendar. Martin Pipe usually has his horses fitter betting for the Cheltenham than most which is why he usually wins this. The Wellington wizard, if you are a fan, or a variant alliteration if you are not, has taken this prize home today's second semi in Ireland. for five of the last eight run-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: King Pin (Wetherby 3.05) **NB: Lyreen Wonder** (Chepstow 2.50)

nings including 1992, when Run For Free, Riverside Boy, Miinnehoma and Bonanza Boy filled

Pipe's Dom Samourai is the likely favourite today and there are grounds too for supporting his other runner, Eudipe, after the gelding's second to Teeton Mill in the Hennessy Gold Cup. ranged against the pair is the carbon frame of Earth Summit,

> 2.50 Explain This 3.20 Storm Damage

3.50 Scarlet Emperor

There may be some little as well as the Hennessy third,



Calling Wild restores the fortunes of Paul Nicholls and Joe Tizzard at Leopardstown yesterday Caroline Norris

promising Macgeorge. May they all return.

Off camera there is an intriguing Castleford Chase at leagues off guard, but from Wetherhy eontaining the young princes Direct Route no-one, "Teeton Mill is fine and Lake Kariba, while Kemp- this morning hut don't ask me ton cranks up again after a where he will run next," she to the heavy ground," Paul day's break with the Christmas Hurdle.

Kerawi, last year's winner, has crunching opposition here in the shape of Dato Star races available off the cuff. We and French Holly, though any creature which performs today has a unenviable struggle attempting to outshine Saturday's King George win for Venetia Williams's Teeton

Williams was playing the

Fiddling The Facts, and the clot yesterday when considering the grey's immediate future. Perhaps she thinks a panto trainer might catch her colnow on Lavinia will he fooling

> said. "We have got to get the party over with first. "I have never been in this position before so I don't know the knew he was worth his place in the race but you have to be surprised at how well he won."

> There was bewilderment too in the King George for connections of the favourite, See More Business. The horse from the West Country got the Ambrosia

1.40 FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE RACE (Grade 1)
(A) \$25,000 3YO 2m 110yds Pen Val \$15,345 BBC2

FORM GUIDE

Chief Cashier: Flat handicapper who won twice over 10f at Epsoni last season, Acts on soft ground, though takes on much more expenenced opponents. Hand Hall: Won 3 times on the Flat and ran out a fairly confortable 10-length winner at Newcastle last month despite some novicely jumps, Looks to have a bright future, though has yet to run on ground as soft as this

though has yet to run on ground as act as the Legend Of Loves Stayer on the Flat (won over 'm7i') and showed he is well suited by soft going when successful at Market Rasen last time. Steps up in class, but should be at home on this more tealing course. Out N'Abouts Ex-frish gelding, won first time out for his new yard in a modest event at Luckow in October. Fait form in better company since then and acts on soft going Miss Orphan: Tough front-runner who has won 4 of her 5 races over hurdles. Tack-les soft going for the first time here but won on it on the Flat in France.

VERDICE Miss Orphes has run the opposition into the ground in her less four ourness and will be at a short price to extend her sequence. This softer ground should not warry her, but her last three twins have been on right-hand courses and HMNT HILL may prove better value. Successful three three, on the Flat last season, his saddle stipped on his first outing over hundles and he then wan fairly easily at Newcastle.

2.15 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (A) £50,000 added 3m 5f 110yds Penalty Valme £34,935

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Earth Summit: Birkered when wining fine lest season by 1½ lengths from Don Samoural. Ramains in fine form, but is 18th higher and meets the runner-up on 2b worse terms. Eudipe: Has made the frame in many of the top class handicap chases and his second to Teeton Mill at Newbury last month looks even better now. Third in the Whitehead in April, so stamina not in doubt, but has not won since February 1997. Macgeorge: On the upgrade and has been raised 17th since last season. Possibly a shade unlucky when 2nd to Tamanindo at Cheltenham (Smith) last time. Pure off the same mark, suited by the going and may be hard to catch if he makes the running Dom Samourair Finished second to Earth Summit in this last year. Beat Him Of Praise 7 lengths when winning at Haydock in February (Earth Summit 5th), but is 10th worse off Sometimes needs plenty of driving along, but is in good form this season. Fiddling The Facts: One of last season's top novices and was having her first outing since April when 3nd to Teeton Mill and Euclipe in last month's Hennessy, is 2th better off with the 2nd for 6 lengths and should come on for the run.

since April when and to learn had and Eulope in last month's Hannessy. Is 2to better off with the 2nd for 6 lengths and should come on for the run. Samilee: Third in this last year and is 16to better off with the winner and 14to with the 2nd. Visored first time and close up when billing 5 out at Sandown this month, but besten to lengths by Earth Summit fonly 2to worse off; at Antree last month. Him Of Preliae: In fine form for most of last season. Runner-up to Dom Samoural at Haydock in February and has a 10to pull for 7 lengths. Respectable 5th to Teeton Milliast month and has another present.

last month and has each-way prospects
Sell By The Stars: Improving chaser last season, but has not shown much in 2 outings this winter Weakened 3 cut when 7th to Teeton MB in last month's Hennessy

Forest ivery: Only just out of the nowce stage and had his first run in handicap company when 4th to Macgeorge at Warwick last month, is only 3to better off for 22 lengths.

Arter Mole: Lightly raced last season and returns after an 11 month layoff. Has won 3 of his 6 starts over tences, but his lack of a recent outing puts him at a big disad-

Torduff Express: Impressive 18-length winner at Ascot last time, but was beaten 5 lengths by Macqeorge at Warwick last month and is 7th worse off Pluns off a 12th higher mark than at Ascot.

higher mark than at Ascot.
Kendal Cavallier: First run for Nigel Hawke and looks just the type for this, despite being 13th out of the handicap. Reveted in the heavy ground when beating forduff Express 12 lengths at Cheltenham in April and is 7th better off.
Cholsty: Beat one other finisher when landing his only success last season. Failed to complete in the Aintree and Scottish Nationals and was pulled up on his reappearance this month. Remote chance 23th out of the handicap.
See Enough: Looked a smart prospect in his youth, but has been hard to train and has broken blood vessels. Was having his first race for over a year when a distant 3rd at Lingfield this month and comes from a stable out of form.

impressive 18-length winner at Ascot last time, but was b

going he was supposed to rel- gether more pleasant experiish. Then, he ran like a pudding. See More Business never travelled, never jumped and never finished. He was pulled up before the embarrassment could get too extreme.

"I put the performance down Nicholls, his trainer, said yesterday. Yes, the same Paul Nicholls who said his horse would skim across the surface like a water boatman once he encountered a quagmire.

Nicholis could at least divert attention with a winner yesterday when Calling Wild collected the Paddy Power Handicap Chase at Leopard- first, clout every fence and then stown, galloping fluently and pull up before you get to the giving Joe Tizzard an alto-

ence than the previous after-

"I won on my first mount at Leopardstown with Playschool in the Hennessy Gold Cup and I told young Joe he had a big chance of emulating me though we were a bit pessimistic after the King George," Nicholls said. "I told Joe to creep into contention and to attack with a circuit to go if they were travelling well."

Tizzard enjoyed carrying out this set of instructions. Twenty-four hours earlier it seemed the trainer had whispered: "Get him off the bridle going to the sniggering in the stands."

2.50 RUSSELL BALDWIN AND BRIGHT NOVICE HURDLE (B) £30,000 2m 110yd Pen Val £18,120 BBC2

FORM GUIDE

Explain This: Exhibit gelding has not well in both outrigs for Charte Matth. Would have finished closer to the winner if he had not made a missible at the final flight when a two-length second to Premer Generation lest time. Abejany: Winner at up to stiff on the Flat. Weakened after 3 out when Eth to Dregon King at Winder at up to stiff on the Flat. Weakened after 3 out when Eth to Dregon King at Winder lest month and underly to stay 2m on this going. Amotherbandor, Shaped well on his first outrig for his new yard when 3rd in a modest event at Lingfield (2m3f) on his handing debut this month. This books hander Angus Alimays: No form in 3 hish point-to-points. Shoped a little improvement when

and of 5 (bith 16 lengths) at Westherby in October, but has not run since and way out of his depth
Johy Side: Malden hunder, but won a bumper at Gownen Park last season and sufed by plenty of give in the ground. Usually front runs and may be hard to peg back
as he stays much farther than this.
Lanigam: Unraced Orchestra Syo and lunes a hard task on hunding debut.

Lyreen Wonder: Kept on after a mistake two out when 4th to Snow Dragon in a 2m21 Lyreen wonder, kept on amer a nasawe two out when 4sh to serve tragger in a 2m3 nucle at Faryhouse (soft) last month. Becking of Mick Fizzparald "buks significant Kates Charm: Made a successful hunding debut at Windertes (2m6f) in October, but seemed unsured by the much softer ground at Plumpton (2m6f) next time Tudor Galet Has shown little in 3 outrigs over hundles this season. Sprint a little ability when 6th to Dark Romance at Towcester last month, but hard to faircy on that run VERIOTCT: Irish raiders JoBy Side and Lyreen Wonder would not have to be special to win this, but it may be safer to rely on their former compatriot EXPLAIN THIS. He had a stiff task in trying to concede 1806 to Premier Generation in a novices' handicap

3.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Valma £4,955

- 8 dectared -Mammum weight: 10st True handicap weight: Rovestar 9st 7th, Bergemin Lancaster 8st 5th. BETTING: 5-4 Tipotoff, 11-4 Storm Demage. 11-2 Gretomi, 8-1 Cyborg De Besutal, 9-1 Rovesta 68-1 Benjamin Lancaster

68-1 Benjamin Lancaster 1997. Sparking Cone 8 10 4 A P McCoy 6-5 lav (Misa V Williams) 9 ran

FORM VERDICT

Time may show that French import Tipetaff – cames automatic top weight – is thrown in on a handicap mark of 130, but he is an unknown quentity in this context and having his first outing for 13 months. GRATOMI is in good form and is capeble of giving his rivel a inght in receipt of 28th May prove safer over these tricky tences than Storm Damage.

3.50 CHEPSTOW CHAMPIONSHIP NH FLAT RACE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £10,000 2m 110yds Panaity Valma £6,280

BÉTTING: 5-2 Searlet Emperor, 7-2 Star Of Dungsthron, 9-2 Prosty Carryon, 6-1 Brave King, 0-1 Eddy's Son, Queens Harbour, 10-1 Ru's Beby, 20-1 Prominent Profile 1997 Jet Tabs 5 11 0 R Dunwoody 0-1 (Mrs J Pitmen) 16 ran FORM VERDICT

Jenny Pitman saddled Jet Tabs to land this event a year ago, and has a strong hand with Queens Harbour and Scarlet Emperor representing her. The latter is Bely to be a warm order after harmening a strong field at Cheltenham, though it is signify disconcersing that the market leaders disappointed that day and he will encounter much softer ground this time – both his half-brothers Cardinal Red and Lie Detector appreciated a sound surface. In the circumstances, the value may be STAR OF DUNGANNON, who is the only unpe-nalsed runner and is weighted to reverse recent course running with Frosty Camyon.

VEROICT: Many of these have met each other over the years and Dom Samoural has an obvious chance after his second to See More Business here last time. Earth Summit seems better than eviat though he was not equapped with the birders in which he won the Arimea and Scottish Nationals last time and they have again been dispensed with here. Being out of the handicap is not always such a big dispelvantage in these long distance chases and KENDAL CAVALIER may not be far away on his first outing for Nigel Hawke. An out-and-out stayer, he won over four miles last season and holds Torduff Express on their running at Chefterham in April.

Tommy Stack in critical condition

TOMMY STACK, one of Ire-land's top trainers but better known as the jockey who rode Red Rum to his historic third Grand National success in 1977, is critically ill with a viral infection in Cork County Hospital. A representative of his stable at Thomastown Castle, Co Tipperary, said: "He's critical and the next 24 hours will be crucial."

tional Hunt jockey of Britain in tenham-bound Joe Mac in the the 1974/75 and 1976/77 seasons novices' hurdle, Shannon Gale with 82 and 97 winners re- in the handicap hurdle and anspectively. He took over on Red other likely celebrity, Youlnev-Rum from Brian Fletcher.

He has held a training licence since 1986 and the highlights of his second career have included the victory of Las Meninas in the 1,000 Guineas of 1994 and Tarascon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas. ■ The former jockey Christy Roche recorded the first four. timer of his training career at Leopardstown yesterday through Afarad, now 14-1 for the Stack, 53, was champion Na- Triumph Hurdle, the Chelerwalkalone, in the bumper

CHEPSTOW

1.10: POTENTATE has won seven times over burdles on this course and may prove equally prolific over fences here. He was an easy winner over two miles when tackling fences for the first time at Plumpton two weeks ago and looks sure to stay this longer trip.

1.40: Front-running MISS ORPHAN showed in France

that she could cope with soft ground and this tough filly will be very hard to peg back. She had much more in hand than the official 16-length verdict would suggest at Ascot last month.

2.15: The 1998 Grand National winner. Earth Summit, is 18lb nigher in the weights than when winning this prize a year ago. But the 10-year-old is so tough he will still make a fight of it. Mud-loving Dom Samourai is another proven at this distance -but the 8-1 available this morning for FIDDLING THE FACTS looks the best bet. This sevenyear-old can reverse Hennessy Gold Cup form with Endipe.

2.50: Time may show that EXPLAIN THIS had a nearimpossible task when second to Premier Generation in a novices' handicap at Chel-tenham last month. He was upsides the winner when blundering at the final flight, so did well to he beaten only two lengths. This looks a much easier race.

KEMPTON

1.15: Nicky Henderson carried all before him here on Saturday, and he can keep up the good work with AMOROSO. A mistake three out cost this sister to this trip.

HYPERION'S

1 - 4 生産点

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TV TIPS

the smart Sharpical her chance against Tom Paddington at Cheltenham and she came home in her own time. It is easy to see her reversing placings with New Bird, who was tuned to the minute for his debut.

1.45: The early-season form of SIMONS CASTLE has worked out particularly well and his Sandown effort hehind Polar Prospect hinted at better to

come over a longer trip. 2.20: If DATO STAR can avoid the sort of mishap that has fre-quently hlighted his hurdles career, he should again have

the measure of French Holly. 2.55: LANCASTRIAN JET is a chaser on the way up and he has more scope for improve-

ment than chief rival Dr Leunt. LEOPARDSTOWN 1.30: There has been on mis taking the confidence behind

NICK DUNDEE on his chasing ventures. He looked to have the measure of Inis Cara before his costly last-fence blunder at Gowran Park, but lived up to the ? hype at Clonmel and should go from strength to strength now.

2.40: FLORIDA PEARL scarcely broke sweat over ences last season and it is a fair bet he will be right on song for his comeback. He jumps like an old hand, and his pace may be too much for Suny Bay over

10-YEAR-TALE ON THE WELSH NATIONAL 1988 89 90 81 92 83 84 95 96 97 Fete of the favourities: 1 1 2 1 1/3 1 1/P A A P Winner's place in betting: 1 1 3 1 1J 7 1J A A O 94 15-8 9-2 94 11-4 6-4 5-2 A A 25-1 101 11,11 100 11.12 10.5 100 11.6 A A 10.13 Vinners' weights: Winners' ages: 7 8 6 9 8 10 6 A A 9 Profit or loss to £1 stake: Pavouriles +£749 Second Favouriles -£800 Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 88% Shortest-priced winner: Riverside Boy (1993) 6-4 Longest-priced winner: Earth Summit (1997) 25-1 Top trainer: M Pipe - Bonariza Boy (1998 & 1989), Carvilla Hill (1891) Run For Free (1992), Physrside Boy (1993)

Top jockey: P Scudamore - Bonanza Boy (1968 & 1989), Carvilla Hill (1991)

CHEPSTOW

12.35 Artemis 1.10 Potentate 1,40 Miss Orphan

2.15 FIDDLING THE FACTS (nap)

GOING: Scit.

II Left-hand, undulating course.

III Left-hand, undulating course.

III Corres is on A466 Chepistov rai station (Cardif - Gloucester line) im. ADMISSION:
Club 120, Tottergalis £15 (OAPs £7). CAR PARK: Pree

III LEADING TRAINERS: IN Pipe 40 wins from 134 runners (205%). P Nicholis 28-96 (292%).

III HEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy £3 ains from 146 rides (24%). R Durtwoody 23-112

IZCE/S, C Lilowellyn 18-110 (164%). R Johnson 18-55 (176%).

III FAVOURITIES: 149 wins from 165 rates (sucress 104-537%).
LONG DISTANCE UK TRAIVELER: Hunt Hill (140) has been sent 256 rates.

IZ INKERED FIRST TIME: Angus Akrways (vicced 255).

12.35 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,241

= 16 declared =

PCS- INDIAN SPRING (268) Lice & Lettre Richards) M Fipe 6 10 9 _ . .

FORM VERDICT

Not an easy race to weigh up with the leading contenders having disparate backgrounds, and the issue to further complicated by Martin Pipe sadding three. As usual, Chris Maude rides (MDMAN SPRING for the Richards' farmly, and this jumping-bred mare is sure to go well if she can translate her bumper form to jumps. She was far from dispraced after a slow start in the Cheherham Festival bumper, and that race is fiving up to its reputation as a not source of hurding talent. Winston Run could give her most to do

1	.10	CALOR GAS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) E5,000 2m 3f 110yds Penaity Valva £3,805
1	710-01	POTENTATE (USA) (14) (C) (J Weeden) M Pipe 7 11 9 A P McCoy
2	20P-33	BOZO (20) (B Ryali) 8 Ryali 7 tt 3
3	/6633-	LEWESDON MANOR (276) (J G Philips) P Webber T 71 3 J A McCartiny
4	F.PP-3	LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (13) (Mrs M Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 7 11 3 W Margton
5	60-300	PLEASURELAND (24) (D) (Mrs C R Hayton) C Pophem 5 ft 3
6	UR/PPO	ROYAL SWEEP (18) (Mrs T Prichard) Dr F Prichard 9 tf 3 Dr P Pritchard
7	320P4	STRONG TEL (255) (C) (T Neil) M Pape 8 11 3
8	13-221	FLAGSHIP UBERALLES (24) (A P Brody) P Nichols 4 10 71 Ni A Fitzgerald

- 6 declared 6ETTING: 11-10 Potentale, 6-1 Flogship Uberallea, 8-1 Strong Tel, 14-1 Lewesdon Manor, 20-1
Bozo, 25-1 Pleasureband, 33-1 others
1997 Dr Leurz 6 11 8 R Dunwoody 6-5 tay (P Hobbs) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Potentate: Smart hurder (won the Welsh Champion Hurdle on heavy ground here in Aprill. Blundered four out when winning easily on his chasing debut at Plumpton last

April. Blundered four out when winning easily on the or easily weath at a support of time and can progress. Bozo: Placed in novice hundles and made mistakes on his first appearance over tences last time when 3rd to Oprilani Queen in a novices' handleap Looks outdessed Levisedon Manor: Started off in bumpers last season and then disappointed in both outings over tences. Attractively bred, but reappears in a competitive race Lough Lelin Spiritz train point-to-point winner, who was always behind in 2 outings over fences last season. Showed some promise when 3rd on his seasonal debut this

over fences last season. Showed some promise when 3rd on his seasonal debut the month, but his is much harder. Pleasureland: Hendicap harder who was sold in August for only 2.200gns. Poor form in 3 outings over hundles this season and is up against it here. Royal Sweep: Temperamental former point-to-pointer and seems below even claiming class over hundles. Unlikely to stay this trip on testing ground. Strong Tell: Rain in competitive company over hundles last season and won first time cut here on soft ground. Should pay his way over fences, but appears to be the Pipe seasond among

Securities and the second security of the best instruction of the second and made right start to its chasing career with easy win at Eveter VeRDICT: On hurdles form this should develop into a straight fight between POTEN-TATE and Plagship Mberallies. Martin Pripe found a weak race for Potentate to tack-le fences for the first time at Plumpton two weeks ago and the seven-year-old made, just one mistake before winning easily by 14 lengths. He was rated superior to Flag-ship Uberallies over hurdles, but the latter, who was also an impressive winner on his chasing debut, receives 12th so there may not be much in it.

WETHERBY

1.00 Eco Friendty 1.30 Owlas Bay 2.00 Tha Butterwick Kid 2.35 Flying Instructor 3.05 GOING: Botz

■ Lett-hand oval crouit. Run-in of 200yds slightly upha.
■ Course is NE of town on B 1224 hear function of 458 and A1.
ADMISSION: Club C13 (accompanied under the fee): Tattersalis C5; Course C3 (OAPS £180) or £10 per car with up to four adults. 29; Course 33 (CAPS £150) of £10 per car with up to four adults.
Accompanied under-tils free CAR PARIC: Free.
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

II LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 7-176 (21%), T Easterby 30-26 (238%), D Nicholson 17-78 (218%), Mrs S Smith 18-98

(163%).

III LEADING JOCKEYS: 1, Wyer 45-174 (26,4%). P Niven 33-150 (22%). A Dobbin 21-179 (17,5%), R Guest 17-83 (20,5%).

III FAVOURITES: 192-456 (42,1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Smart Boy (3,35).

1.00 BRADFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 3YO 2m

THE CANNIE ROVER (F35) M W Easterby 10 12. _ . F Leating

- 13 declared -SETTING: 6-4 Simply Gifted, 9-2 Eco Priendly, 6-1 Master Tern, 13-2 Bhuten, 8-1 Rahabad, 10-1 Empire Gold, 12-1 Dangerman, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

A hot little contest which should provide some luture winners, but 8 IMPLY GIFTED has ecope to do better and is marginally pre-terred to the Group performer Ece Friendly, who has had intermittent problems the summer. Bituten may have disappointed at Plumpton but he shouldn't be written off back on this more con-

1.30 HARRY WHARTON NOVICE HANDI-CAP CHASE (D) 25,000 2m 4f 110yda Panif Master Wood (14) (CD 89) C Garet 7 12 C McConnack (3) 632-1- BANKER COUNT (422) (C) M W Essistby 6 11 12 ... B Garriey

BETTING: 15-8 Master Wood, 4-1 Senker Court, 11-2 8 The One, 0-1 Out By Night, 8-1 Dules Say, Inch Way, 14-1 Carley Lad, 25-1 Leap in The Dank

FORM VERDICT Master Wood took a while to get the hang of fences and its annoying that he fell at Newcastle only two weeks ago. It might be worth talling a chance on BANKER COUNT, who is well regarded at home and always looked the type to make a chaser

2.00 LONG MARSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 addad 2m 7f 1 225-P. GREAT EASESY (14) (D) W Storey 8 *2 0 ... R McGrath
1 1225-P. GREAT EASESY (14) (D) W Storey 8 *2 0 ... R McGrath
2 112-0 TEAATRAL (18) C Egerton 4 *1 7 ... J. Osborne 8
3 11-44F FOR CATINAL (21) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7 *10 71 ... P Never
4 22-10 PRELLIDE TO FAME (11) Mrs K Miligen 5 *10.7 ... F Leahy
5 204-4 THE BUTTERWICK KID (43) R Fahry 5 *10.6 A Dobbin
6 /n-4P BRIDLE PATH (11) (D) T Essienty 7 *10 1 ... J Tizzard
9 8 doctorned –
BETTING: 9-4 Teastral, 11-4 The Butterwick Kid, 9-2 For Cathel, 11-2 Prelude To Fame, 13-2 Great Esseby, 8-1 Bridle Path

FORM VERDICT This test of stamme will suit THE BUTTERWICK KID who can mak the weight he gets from Lecaster winner Teaatral. The return to hurding may suit For Cattled, although it is not easy to assess what he achieved in novice hurdes lest season, while Prefude To Fame is not out of it if he can recapture his Meriest Resen form.

2.35 CASTLEFORD (LIMITED HANDICAP) CHASE (Grada 2) (A) 530,000 added 2111

3 355-1 CHORD DORCET (98) (CD) J Churton 8 10 7 8 Storey
5 48034 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (2) (CD) T Easerby 9 10 3................ 8 Storey
6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10d 3b; Tale fricap weight: Curatines Chefenge 9st 13b;
BETTING: 5-2 Latto Keriba, Flying Instructor, 11-4 Direct Route, 5-2 Lord
Dorcet, 10-1 Cumbrian Chefenge FORM VERDICT Today's conditions (small field on a left-handed track in the mud) are ideal for LAKE KARIBA and provided he puts in a clear round he should be able to turn the tables on his Sandown conquery Direct Route today. This is no two-horse race however se Flying Instructor also comes here in form while the other par had form

in the spring which would put them thereabouts too.

3.05 APPLETON ROEBUCK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1f BETTING: 7-2 Birtotale, 4-1 Radiation, 9-2 King Pin, 5-1 River Dan, 11-2 Bobby Grant, 6-1 Mester Hove, 6-1 Ardent Scout FORM VERDICT

All these have potential, but the conditions look talternade for BIRK-3.35 BRAMHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) 23,800 added 2m

FORM VERDICT Today's ground will suit DONNYBROOK who can repeat his C&D win of two months ago. There are question marks over the others with form claims, namely Ferners (resolution), Classical Dance (may not be at his best in very soft, Faru Islamina on today's ground) and Smart Boy (not progressing).

KEMPTON

12.40 Fanfaron 1.15 Amarosa (nti) 1.45 Simons Castle

HYPERION 2.20 Dato Star 2.55 Lancastrian Jet 3.25 Even Flow

GOING: Sof Right-hand course Practically flat. Fun-in of 200yd.

■ Course is on A308 at Surbury (Bus link from Richmond & Hatton Cross Underground statrons). Kempton Park rathway station edjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub \$16 (Juniors 17:21 years \$10), Tattersalls \$12. Silver Ring \$5. Accompanied under-18s free. CAR PARK:

Members C2, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: 0 Nicholson 19 was from 67 namers (284%), R Almer 15-43 (345%), N Henderson 12-66 (175%), N Twiston-Davies 10-52 (192%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne 22 was from 73 namers (201%), M A Fitzgerald 21-115 (183%), A Maguire 20-78 (258%). R Duriwoody 19-95 (20%). III FAVOURITES: 122-289 (42.2%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

12.40 PERTEMPS WAYWARD LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £12,585

= 2 Declared = BETTING: 4-11 Fantaron, 2-1 Hoh Express 1997. Angelos Double 9 II 3 6 Powell 2-1 (R Buchter) 4 ran

FORM VERDICT

There really snit much point in opposing FANFARON, who was so exciting on his debut at Market Rasen last month. There are no womes about the ground and he should take care of Hoth Express, although Paul Webber's novice is capable of winning some fair races.

1.15 PERTEMPS NETWORK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 edded 3YO 2m Penalty Value £5,084 JAMORIN DANCER (F79) M/ Barks IV Barks TO 0 MR Richards
MYSTERY GUEST (F77) (Winton Bloodstock) Miss H Kinghi Ti 0 J Callory
5 NEW BIRD (GER) (17) (P E Cinton) O Nicholson Ti 0 R Johnson
RED BORDEAUX (F74) (A D Spencer J Alebrust Ti 0 C Limitully
SUPER-GEM (F59) IMrs J R Barnison) J Warrangto Ti 0 A Thornton
6 TEMERAIRE (USA) (15) (P M Miconey) R Ingram Ti 0 J Appell
4 AMOROSO (17) (Barton Boys) IN Henderson To 9 J R Kimenegh
dark blue, red stone anniest and care dark blue, red stope, emilets and cap - 9 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 New Bird, 5-2 Trainide, 3-1 Amoroso, 10-1 Red Bordeaux, 12-1 Te n Dancer, Mystery Guest, 25-1 others 997 Upgrade 3 til 0 C Liewellyn 25-1 (N Twiston-Davies) t3 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Traillide: Winner in France before successful English debut at Fontwell, Improved form when led flat, driven out, beat Sterganzar % length at Newbury (2m nov hole, good). Further progress likely, but latest form has not worked out particularly well bancing Derivish: Low-grade mile winning handicapper on the Flat for lan Baiding. Cost new connections 8000ghs, Yard newcomers usually better for expenience. Jamorin Dancer, Lingfield Im11 winner in June for Michael Jarvis. Goes well on soft ground First run for new yard and worth noting in the market Mystery Guest: Middle-distance maiden on the Flat for Sir Marik Prescott. Making hurdes debut for far Hennerta Kinghir Acts on soft. New Blird: Mile winner in Germany Promising hurdles debut when, looked danger-ous 2 out, 16 lengths 3rd to Tom Paddington at Chettenham (2m11 hdle, good to soft) Looks capable of better and should be sured by easier track. Red Bordeaux: Cattend, tim51 maden winner in Oct for Barry Hills Hurdles debut for new inform yard and worth noting in the betting. Acts on easy surface. Super-Germ: Little agn of ability up to first on the Flat, Hurdles debut flowners: Powerful mile winner on Flat for Amanda Perrett. Cost new connections 79000ghs and promising debut when, weakened 2 out, 36 lengths 6th of 9 to Hors.

79,000gns and promising debut when, weakenerd 2 out, 38 lengths 6th of 9 to Hors La Lol III at Lingfield (2m hdie, soft), Should improve but possibly needs tester ground. Amoroso: Stefer to Tote Trophy winner Starpical. 9t winner on Flat and useful handles debut when tenderly-handled 28 lengths 4th of 8 to Tom Peddington at Chettenham (2m 1f nov hole, good to soft), interesting prospect with yard in great form

VERDICT: The fairly sharp track could find out Trafulde, who has looked a hard ride, so the answer could be NEW BIRD, who ran up against above-average types in Tom Paddington and Hit And Run at Cheltenham and should have learned from the experience With Nicky Honderson's team in flying form, it would be no surprise to see Amoroso, who was stopped in her tracks by a mistake at Cheltenham, play-

1.45 PERTEMPS EDUCATION NETWORK HAND-ICAP HURDLE (B) \$8,000 2m 5f Pen Value \$5,441

— 7 oscareo — Manmum wengtz: 10st. True trandicap wedgiz: Alez Wijns 9st 11 lb. BETTING: 9-4 World Express, 3-1 Kings Mansure, 7-2 Paellings, 5-1 Simons Castle, 6-1 Red Raja, 12-1 Allez Wijlins, 14-1 Teinein 1997 Three Farthings 7 10 3 C Liewellyn 8-4 fav (J Old) 7 ran

KEMPTON

Papo Khansma. Jeckpot: £8,73760. Placepot: £35,00. Guadpot: £9,60.

Place 6: £2847. Place 5: £1933

AYR

CSF: £2614
2.35: 1. SANTA CONCERTO (F. Supple)
13-8 ian; 2. Feels Like Gold 9-4; 3. Summy
Leith 100-1 5 ran. 15, 25 (f. Lungo) Tota:
5210: £140. £130. DF: £2.30. CSF: £453
3.10: 1. SCOTMAIL LAD (Mr M Bradburre)
7-4 ten: 2. Jaunny General 25-1: 3. Kingenne 100-30. 10 ren. Dst. det. (6 Moore) Tota:
£2.80; £130. £380. £190. DF: £22.70. CSF:
£43.52.

£4352 3.40: 1. COTTSTOWN BOY (Mr M Brachume) 13-2: 2. Robbo 7-4; 3. Attackale 10-1 6 ran. 6-4 fav Kris Green 4, 14. (Mrs 3 Brachume). Tote: £750; £250, £140 DF: £530. CSF: £71. NF: ingletoman. Placepot: £2180. Quadpot: £1710.

HEREFORD

OF: C19830 CSF: £10883 Tricast £45048 NF: Burtington Sam. Come On Penny, Hiser, Influ-ence Pedier, Monicasman.

Secret. High Low, Scoundred 3.10: 1. DRUM BATTLE IS Wymne) 11-2, 2. Spring Saint 3-1, 3. Shore Party 9-4 Sx. 6 ran. 6 12 (W Turner) Tote: 97-40; E150, C140, C120 DF C180 CSF: C220 R.NS. Coper Cod. Coulin Loch, High in The Clouds Holdmichse Mil Bay Sari, Stepesideby 147-41, Janson Mildelf, R. 144, 2011.

Hotomichse, MB Bay Sam, Sepasiousy 3.40: 1. LAMBRINI KNIGHT (Mark Smith) 55-1; 2. Rocabee 4-7 Inv; 3. Forest Friend 20-1 11 ran. 17. (Mrs. L. Williamson). Tote: 54400: 6660. 5110. 6430. DF: 67290. CSF: 53413. NF: Grandpa Maurice, Liste Rouge, Manteeno. Nolumener, Secon, Travelling Man.

Piecepot: £4880. Quadpot: £2690.

Place 6: 262.04 Place 5: \$47.75.

FORM GUIDE

POHAM GOIDE

Teinsin: Useful performer time seasons ago, but off for 11 months before tailed off 7th of 6 to Ela Agapi Mou (Newbury 2m 5t hosp hole, good to soft). Best warched Stmons Castle: Winning mount at Towcester (from 3t) lower] and has since run well at Laicester behind. Once More For Luck and when 14 lengths 6th of 3 to Polar Prospect at Sandown (2m hosp hole). Longer trip here should suit and likely to go close World Express: in the form of his life with impressive 18 lengths win from Harry at Exeter (2m 1f hosp hole, soft). Stays 2m5f and every chance from only 4th higher Kings Measure: Bumper winner, successful twoce in three starts over timber last term, big Tamanno on Haydock debut and Zender by 2f at Ayr (2m6f, good). Handily weighted and books sort to morrove again.

Red Raja: Newbury and Windsor wither two seasons ago. Dropped 4tb since 6 lengths 6th of 12 to Dashing Doller at Windsor (2m8) Incap hole, good) but plently to find Pealings: Jumped better than usual when, ran on wait, or Polar Prospect 1% lengths at Universer (2m4) house hole, heavy). No easy task from 3tb higher Allez Wijline: Warwick winner from 10tb higher in 1996, but lightly raced since. Better effort last term when 23 lengths 5th of 9 to Spendid at Chellenham (2m6) hosp hole, heavy) in April. Stable on a roll and market probably the best guide

VERDICT: Allex Wifne, more than capable of winning off this mark, presents a prob-lems for backers following his lay-off. His in-form trainer, Nick Henderson, has produced several first-time winners lately. But preference is for KINGS MEASURE, who has al-ways looked a very high-class prospect, and was impressive at Ayr tast backend. He is unlikely to want for fitness. The progressive World Express and Simons Castle also promise to marke it a very interesting contast.

2.20 PERTEMPS CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £40,000 2m Penalty Value £25,575 70-1F DATO STAR (16) (D BF) (K Riley/Mrs M Guthrie/J Donald) J M Jeferson 7 11 7. _L Wyer
11-P2 FRENCH HOLLY (USA) (20) (D) (K Road) F Marphy 7 11 7. ______ A Thomson
20-34 KERAWI (36) (CD BF) (M Archer/Mes J Broadrurst) N Twiston-Devies 5 11 7. ____ C Llewellyn
22-23 MASTER BEVELED (28) (D) (Mrs E J Williams) P Evers 6 11 7. ____ R Thomston

5 - THEF WAKEEL (USA) (51) (D) (M Chancet) M Pitman 6 Ti 7 ______ R Ji - 5 declared -BETTING: 5-6 Dato Star, 9-4 French Holly, 11-2 Korani, 8-1 Master Beveled, 25-1 Wakeel 1997: Narani 4 Ti 7 C Ulewellyn 4-1 (N Tension-Daves) 5 ran **FORM GUIDE**

Dato Star: Form pick on his 5 lengths win over French Holly at Newcastle last month. Starnbled and fall when going well 4 out in race won by Relices at Cheltenham (2mtf hide, good to soft) talks. The one to beat with going to suf. French Holly: Unbeaten in five starts lost term but looks held on 5 lengths 2nd to Dato Star at Newcastle (2m holle, good to soft) last month. Needs testing conditions over 2m in this class and likely to find sharp course against him Kerawit Improved display to beat Shedow Leader V. length here last yeer. Below form

Mester Bevelod: Career-best effort to beat Shadow Leader at Sandown tast Febru by Grey Shot at Wincanton (2m hcap hdle, good) latest and likely to struggle

VERDICT: DATO STAR is far from the luckiest of horses, but he looks a cut above these on his best form. Conditions are right for him here and he should be able to outpace the talented from runner French Holly again on this easy course. Only if the pace were allowed to drop could Master Beveled be expected top get into the act.

2.55 PERTEMPS EXECUTIVE NETWORK HANDICAP CHASE (B) £10,500 3m Penalty Value £7,213

FORM GUIDE

Dr Leunt: Without win for 11 months but good 3rd to Cylor Meita in Murphy's (2m4), good) and 10 lengths 4th to Northern Starlight (2m5), good to soft) last two starts. Stays 3m, acts on heavy but high enough in vergins, despire 2to drop store last run. Camitrov: Smart novice 3 seasons ago but difficult to train and without a win since April 1995. Mistakes when distant last of 4 to Capenwray at Leicester (2m4) hoap ch.

April 1995. Mistakes when costant less of a for caperway at decesser containing only good) latest. Stamma doubt and heard to farroy good) latest. Stamma doubt and heard to farroy Time Won't Walt: Useful effort when unseated nder 3 out in race won by Random Harvest at Market Resen (Smrt/ heap ch) in October, but disappointed since and looked non-stayer when 22 lengths 2nd to Scavo at Plumpton (2m51 heap ch, soft) latest Lamcastrian Jet: Improving steadily and stayed on well to beat Master Chet 2 lengths at Towcester (3m1f heap ch, soft). Rased 5to since but still on a reasonable mark

VERDICT: A slowly-run race tooks the main problem for the progressive LANCAS-TRIAN JET, whose strong suit is stamina. He needed every yard of the stiff Towcester 3m1f last time, but conditions could be more testing here. Any hanging about would leave him vulnerable to Dr Liturit, who should find this sealer than Chellerham.

RECRUITMENT NETWORK HANDICAP CHASE 3.25 (CLASS B) £15,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £10,961

don Bleu 5 10 0 J Cullety 3-1 (Miss H Knight) 5 ran

FORM VERDICT

Despite the numbers, this is quite an interesting race in which all three can be given a good chance, Big Matt will no doubt be popular given his trainer's tantastic day here on Seturdey but it could be worth taking a chance on EVEN FLOW's finess. The selection looked very much one to tollow this season after a sense of good efforts last term and

SATURDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Ch	eps	tow	2.1	5	
	C	н	L	S	۲
Dom Samourai	9-2	4-1	7-2	7-2	7-2
Earth Summit	9-2	41	41	7.2	41
Macgeorge	92	5-2	5-1	5-1	13-2
Europe	7-1	6-1	61	7-1	13-2
Fidding T Fact	3 T·1	£-3	6-1	6-1	13-2
Torduff Express	6-1	9-1	8-1	9-1	B-1
Forest Ivory	11-1	12-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Sail By 7 Stars	16-1	16-1	74-1	16-1	16-1
Kendal Cavalle	12:1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Santes	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Him Ot Praise	20-1	16-1	12-1	14 ·1	12-1
Arter Mole	33-1	33-1	13-1	28-1	33-1
Enough	150-1	150-1	66-1	100-1	150-1
Cholety	150-1	150-1	100-1	25-1	100-1
Each way, a q	Larier	the co	ds, pla	ces i,	2.3
C Coral H William	HALL	Lector	XBS. 5	Stantey	7 Total

FIRST SHOW

Kei	npt	ОΠ	2.2	0	
	C	H	L	s	T
Date Star	11-10	10-11	6-11	56	45
Franch Holly	94	5-2	94	11-4	94
Kerapi	5-1	4-1	6-1	9-2	6-1
Angler Baveled	11-2	9-1	10-1	6-1	B-1
Wakeel	25-1	22-1	33-1	20-1	38-1

C Corel H William Hit L Luchnoles, 9 Stanley T Total

Leopard	dstov	VT)	2.4	0
	C	н	L	т
Florida Peerl	5-4	6-5	п-10	11-10
Suny Bay	6-4	6-4	13-8	13-8
Dorans Pride	41	92	5-1	41
Boss Doyle	6-1	10-1	9-1	11-1
Buck Rogers	33-1	33-1	25-1	40-1
Marry People	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1

Each-way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2 C Cost, H Wilson Hit & Larberies: T Teles

7-2 Pealings 5-1 Smons Caste, 6-1 Red Raja. 12-1 Allez Wijins, 14-1 Teinem
ANTE-POST
Cheltenham Gold Cup

Cheltenhar	n Gol	d Cup
None .	н	L
Jeston 155	41	3-1
Rorida Pearl	9-2	41
Cylor Matta	8-1	7-1
Suny Bay	12-1	10-1
Ucsintable Bover	12-1	12-1
Dorana Pride	<u>2</u> 41	14-1
Escarialique	16->	14-1
See More Business	14-1	16-1
Boss Dayle	20-1	20-1
Earlingover	20-1	20-1
Earth Summit	25-1	20-1
Sachway, a quarter f	e odos, piec	s 1, 2, 3

*THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES

0891	261	+					
LIVE COMME	NTARIES	RESULTS					
KENIPTON	971	981					
CHEPSTOW	972	982					
WETHERBY	973	983					
CETER	974	984					
ALL COURSES RESULTS							
∥ 0891	261 9	70					

Calls row Stip per minute TLS, 11d, Screener St ECIA 4PT

HUNTINGDON

Gong: Solt 1.00: 1, YOUNG THRUSTER LI Coldsteni 6-4 Day 5-1, 3. Renardine Boy Going: Good to Soft, Soft in places, Larer changed to Soft. 12.40: 1. GRECIAN DART IM A Fitzgerald) iov. 2. Supreme Dey 5-1, 3. Renardine Boy 16-1, 15 ran. 1-9. 6. (1) Twiston-Deuves 1 fota: £250; £140; £190; £530 DF: £730 CSF: £932 NR: French County, Franch Tala. The Ned 1.30: 1. DOUBLE TEMPO IJ R Revenagny 5-2 ji fav. 2. Specialize £-1, 3. Total Joy 5-1 for 3-5-2 ji fav. 7. Specialize £-1, 3. Total Joy 5-1 for 3-5-2 ji fav. 8-2 ji fav. 5-1, 2 Junga 2-1 fav; 3. Forcer Inc. Leaver 5-1 9 ran. Hd. 8, IN Henderson, Lambourn, Tote: 0620, F230, F230, F130, DF; 8890, CSF; CS61, NR: Rarrang Water, 1-10: 1. LORO OF THE RIVER IJ Osborne) 1-10: 2. Spendid 9-4 fav; 3. King Of Sparta 11-2; 2. Spendid 9-4 fav; 3. King Of Sparta 12-1 7 van. 1%, dist. IO Sherwood, Upper Lambourn), Tote: 5580, £230, £170. DF: £620 CSF: £16.27, NR: Song Of The Sword. 56.20 CSF: \$16.27, NR: Song Of The Sword.
1.46: 1. SERENUS (M A Fitzgerald) 4-1; 2. Road Racer n.2; 3. Shahrur 8-1 9 ran. 7-4 far Tatchev (lett) 10.2% (N Henderson, Lambourn) Tote: 54.20. E.TQ. (190, C190, DF. 1070. CSF: £2489. Incast: £15.03. NR: Decoupage, King Of Thieves, Next Feat.
2.20: 1. TEETON MILL. (N Williamson) 7-2; 2. Escartefigue 6-1; 3. Imperial Cell 7-2. 9 ran. 11-4 ta See More Bueness (pulled up). 6. det. (Mass V Williams, Herelord). Tote: 2400, 520, 1590, £180, DF; £16.70. CSF. £2413. Infecta: £146.50.

2.55: 1. EAGLES REST (M A Fitzgerald) 9-2; 2. Dines 5-4 fay; 3. Distant Echo 7-1, 5 ran. 4, 26 (N Handerson, Lambourn) Tote: £590, £150, £150 DF: £380, £381, £300. Sheein Lad, Solo Gerti, Swing Quartet 3.00: 1. OSCAIL AN DORAS | Mr. J P. McNa-mara; 9-4; 2. Muchelint 11-4; 3. Quango 5-1. 7 ran. 2-1 fax Black Statement (50h), 11/1, 8. (F. Murphy), Tota: 0530: E290, E180. DF: E270. CSF: E1130. Tricast: E3151. NR: Wiscoe Westers 2.35: 1, MELODY MAID (M A Fitzgorald) 9-4 tav; 2. Be My Mot D. 4; 3. Sulaweed 5-1 6 ram, 3, 9 (N Henderson, Lambourn), Totar 53:0, E170 5140, DF; 53:0, CSF; 5884 NR; Pago Kharisma.

Wonder
3.30: 1. BORO SOVEREIGN (J. R. Kevanaghi
5-2 it lav; 2. Molity Pitz Lad 5-2 it lav; 3. Carried Interest 6-1.7 ran. 7. /n. (N. Henderson).
Tota: E390: E200. E180. DF: E500 CSF:
E844. NR- Boots Mate. Some Go West,
Thanks Bg Fella, What You Know
Placepot: ETILO, Quedpot: ETISO.

Temps. 6.5567. Rieses. E. CSP.3. Place 6: 05687. Place 5: 038.25.

MARKET RASEN

Gong: Heavy 12.85: 1. CRAZY HORSE (R Supple) 5-1: 2. Major Sponsor 5-2 tay; 3. Office Boy 200-1 11 mm. 2¹; dst. (I. Lungo). Tote: 53.30: CMC CLSD: 6680 DF: 6830. CSF: £1400 NR: Ingle Dene, Toggi Dancer 1.26: 1. ROSSEL IC McCormack) 1-5 fav. 2. Turkdish Tower 4-1. 2 min. Den. (P. Mocnetth). Tota: C120. NR: Strong Mission, Wynysrd Total: YELL NH: Strong wassort whysic Kright 2.00: 1, 8UPPLEME SOVIET (B Harding) 4.1. 2. Harden Glen B-1: 3. The Other Half 33-1 6 ran. H-8 lav Course Doctox 2th, dist. (A Whillens) Total: 1550; Y.280, Y.230, DF: Y.231, CSF: Y.2514

Gong: Chase - Heavy, Hurde - Soh 12.30: 1. OAKBURY (T Siddall 6-1; 2. African Sun 10-1: 3. Father Eddle 14-1 10 nan. 7-2; itavs Amazing Sail (publid up). Bal-moral Princess (Sth), 1/4. 4. (Mass L Siddall) Tota: C760: 5220, E220, E370. DF: 54330. CSF: 56216. Tincest: £75365 CSP: 06216 Treast: £75365
1.00: 1. SPRINGFIELD SCALLY (A 5 Smith)
3.1 ji tay; 2. Deon't Century 9-2; 3. Cruz Senta
8-1 11 ran. 3-1 ji tay Fami (unseetted rider).
/-. 1. (\$ Golfings.) Tota: £340: £120. £360.
£180. DF: £25.80 CSF: £1885. NR: Copper
Shell, Gay Galant, Imperio, Lily Jaques.
1.35: 1. CARACOL. (T Soddai) 4-1: 2. Key
Grip 11-4: 3. Abzoomo 3-1. 7 ran. 5-2 fav
Jernacon Filight (4th). 12. 5. (J. Navišel. Tota:
£570: £230. £240. DF: £1650 CSF: £1738. Th
cast: £38.70. NR. Home Courries.
2.05-1. YOUNG KENNY (8 Gentlan) 11-4: 2. Cast: S38.70. NR. Home Cournies.
2.05: 1. YOUNG KENNY (8 Grantar) 11-4: 2.
Solo Gent 9-2, 3. Stater Resza 7-1.8 run.
11-8 fav Noosa Sound (unsanted rider), 3.
8. (9 Besumont). Tota: E370: E330. E140.
E2.70. DF: E130. CSF: 57-47 Treast: B80.02.
NR. Diamond Fort, Master Boston, Than That.
2.35: 1. MONICASMAN (E Husband) 5-2, 2.
Sniper 11-8 fav; 3. The Other Man 15-1.8 run.
1, 4. (6 McCourt). Tota: E300: E140. E130.
E2.70. DF: E230. CSF: £703. Treast: E4506.
NR: Larkshil Silars Statler
3.05: 1. BWEEP GENTLY (Mr. J. Crowley) 4-6
tar; 2. Ecliptic Moon 12-1; 3. Down The
Vard 5-2. 6 ran. 29. 29. (Mrs. S. Smith). Tota:
E190; £130, £470. DF: £330. CSF: £1039.
3.35: 1. BRANCEPETH BELLE (G.F. Ryan)

Going: Soft 12.25: 1. HOMME DE FER (Mr R Fornistal) 11-4 tay, 2. Forever Mobile 10-3; 3. Giaclal Missile 11-2 16 ran. 8, dist. (K Bailey). Pate: 1944); 5290, 5270, F140 DF: £320. CSF: 1034 NR: Dasharan 2180; £130, £470, DF: £330, CSF: £038 3.35; 1. BRANCEPETH BELLE (G F Ryan) 14-1; 2. Welsh Mountain 2-1 it fav: 3. Shan-nan Shoon 9-1. 8 ran. 2-1 if fav řušk (putled up). 8. 2's. (N Maoo') Tote: £235; £350, £10, £240, DF: £4230, CSF: £4521 CT0.34 NF: Dashsran
12.55: 1. WEATHER WISE (S Wynne) 3-1 fav.
2. Western Chief 6-1: 3. New Ross 9-1 8
ran. 15, 3. (W Turner). Tote: £4.50, £1.50.
£1.40. £1.40. DF: £9.90. CSF: £2.513. Incast:
£1.75.5, NF. Balmoral Princess. River Mulligan.
Spencer Stallone.
1.30: 1, MISS PENNYHILL (Guy Lewis) 12-1;
2. Helfo Me Man 10-1; 3. Measured Stap
100-30. B ran. 11-4 fav Possell Island (ctth).
§ 17). (A Saciol.) Tote: win, £2.90. £1.60, £1.80.
10- crossell CSF: £1.90883. Timast: £4.5048. Nft. Placepot: \$12180. Quadpot: \$800. Place 6: £15490. Place 5: £2470.

SEDGEFIELD Gorrg: Good 1.00: 1. DONNEGALE (Richard Guest) 11-1; 2. Mr Mahdio 9-1; 3. Coppern Jevel 9-1 15 ran, 9-4 lav Beccale Rose (5th), Hd, 3. 07 Tate), Toter (14,70; 5300, 5200, 5210, DF: 53650, CSF: £9655.

LSO:1. LSF: 1290-59.

1.30:1.THE SNOW BURN (Richard Guest) 9-5;

2. Made of Stool 16-1; 3. Queens Brigade 7-2

6 ran, 2-1 fav Jondi Le Fonge (Sth), 10. 8. (7

Tate), Tote: \$3.90; \$180, \$2.70 DF: \$30.30 CSF.

245.38. ence Pediar, Monicasman. 2.08: 1. SELBERRY (J A McCarthy) 7-4 fav; 2. Orange Place 14-1: 3. Walk On By 14-1 12 ran. 1, 5. (E. James). Tote: (250; €130, €150, €530. DF: €1210. CSF: £2787. Tricast: €26780. NR: Fary Knight, Go Britannia, Mar-ket Mayhem. Zorba. 2.00: 1. SHLARS STALKER (G Lee) 2-1 fev;

2. Mister Muddypans 7-2; 3. D'Arbiny Street 13-2, 8 ran. 2/r. 1/r. (Mas S Williamson) Tota: (370; E180 C120 DF: GE20 CSF: (295) Tricast: (354) NR: Johns The Boy. The Boy.

2.30: 1. XAIPETE (Fichard Quest) 2-1 feet 2.
Chummy's Segs 9-4; 3. Excise Man 16-1, 7 feet, 9, 10, N. Mascot), Total: £200; £130, £170.
DF: £270. CSF: £707.

ur: \$2.70. (SF: \$707.
3.00: 1. CATHEDRAL BELLE (G Lee) 7-4 fas;
2. Andrys Lad 4-1; 3. Northern Massiro 7-1
8 ran. 17., dar. (Ars. M Reveley) 10te: \$2.30;
13.0, 15.0, 52.20, DF: 13.90 CSF: \$0.37. This cast: \$0.06. NR: Good Day. Levo, Lucky Massier. ter. 3.30: 1. WARRLIN (N Horrocks) 9-2: 2. Klerchem 7-1: 2. Europ 10-1 12 ran. 3-1 tav Monis (ran out). 6, 9 (C Parthurst). Tota: 5450. E190, E290 E590, DF: 6756 CSF: 52840. Tricest: E29437. NR: Swendale Flyer. Place 5: £40712. Place 5: £6955.

WETHERBY

1.15: 1. AGHAWADDA GOLD (FI Gernty) 9-4 2. Ballad Minstrel 13-8 lav, 3. Bitofa Divi 50-8 ran. 9. clist. († Tale). Tote: £320, £170, £150 DF, £230, CSF; £626, NR; Ecliptic Moort DF. E230 CSF: SE25. NR: Eclipic Moon 1.50: 1. EPONINE (S Durack) 44-1; 2. Shrin-Ing Edge 9-1:3. Nahri 2:1 7ram. 18 tw Onc-More For Luck (Sth). 10. 16. TE Elicot) Tote: CH30; E370. C320 DF: ESIGO CSF: C9997. 2.25: 1. RANDOM HARVEST (Mr A Dempsey) 9-4; 2. The Last Fling 5-1; 3. River Lossie 9-4. 4 ram. 2-1 fav Strath Royal (sulfied up). 7. dist. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: C280. OF. E730 CSF: E108 NR: Colonel in Chief. The Grey Monit. 2.56: 1. EIRESPRAY IS Durack] 3-1 fav; 2. Maître de Musique 5-1; 3. Weaver George 8-1 6 ram. 3. 14. (Mrs S Britin). Tote: C410, F220. CSC5. DF: E360 CSF: C5-33. Treast. 2868: NR: Anstranch, Cab On Target. 3.25: 1. LORO LAMB (Mr A Dempsey) 5-4 fav; 2. Symonds Inn 7-4, 3. Mister San-drovitch 20-1 10 ram. 11-; 2.2 (Mrs M Rev-eley). Tote: E250; E140. E150. E170. DF. C100. CSF: C339. Placepot: C84-20. Quadpot: E6630.

Placepot: £18420. Quadpot: £6630. Place 6: £28615. Place 5: £203.85

WINCANTON

WINCANTON

Gorng: Soft [Heavy patches]

1.00: 1. MY TERN (W Greatres) 4-1: 2. Silk Vestments 6-1 kay, 3. Royal Ruiser 9-1.7 ran. N. 18. (L Wels) Toto: E580, S150 5170 DF: 5480, CSF: 2984 NR: Lily For Looks, Peg O The Wood, Proper Principe. Lily For Looks, Peg O The Wood, Proper Principe. Lily For Looks (14-1) withdrawn not under orders. Aule 4 on board prices, deduction 5p in the pound. 1.30: 1. ROSINS PRIDE (R Farram) 5-1: 2. Morstock 3: 1: 3. Beyond Our Reach 9-1 5 rsn. 5-8 fav Cool Gurnier (4th). 9. 1%. (C Popham) Toto: E580; 2:200, 5:160, OF: 50:20. CSF: 2:648, MR: Indian Jockey Roberts Toy, 2.05: 1. WAYWARD KING (T Descombe) 5-2: 2. Stormy Passage everse fav; 3. The Land Agent 9-2.4 rsn. 3, 8. (R Hodges), Toto: C350. DF: E170. CSF: E364, NR: Wise King. 2.35: 1. THREE FARTHINGS (T J Murphy) 5-2: 2. Papo Kharisme 6-5 fax 3. Misster Rm 0-1.6 rsn. %: des. (J Old), Table: E270; 5:140, 5:200. The CSF: E5547. Tricast: E876. MR: Mor's Futter, Metody Mard. 3.05: 1. GLYTTER ISLE (P Hdol 11-8; 2. Menacond 8-10 fax. 2 rkn. %. IJ Gifford), Toto: E220, NR: Betty's Boy, Fine Thyne Jet Rules, Juliara, Symbol Of Success. 3.35: 1. PIETRO BEMBO (T J Murphy) 2-1: Rules, Jultara, Symbol Of Success
3.35; 1. PIETRO BEMBO (T J Murphy) 12-1;
2. Krabbonik 5-1; 3. Lizzys Pirst 11-8 lav.
8 ran. 9 1% (J Alcehurst), Totac £1250; £310.
E180, £140, DF: £2450. £5F; £571. Treast
£2543. NR: Super Mac. What A Russ. Placepot: £175.40, Quedpot: £44.00.

WOLVERHAMPTON Going: Standard 1.00: 1. HIGH NOON (T G McLaughlin) 9-2. 2. Night Auction 10-1: 3. Karrawa 20-1 13 ran. 5-2 fav Roi De Danse (4th). 2.3% (N Lithmoden). Tote: 2590; C170, 2530, 2810. DF: 63440. CSF: 24531. Tricast. 278369.

C3440 CSF: 24531 Tricast E78363.

1.30: 1. HILTONS EXECUTIVE (J Ourn) 7-2. Massessewer 7-1; 3. Noble Pariet 20-1: 10 ran. ri -4 fav Eite Hope (4th) Stri-hd. 11/h. (E Alston) Totas: 5520; 6170; 8420; 6230; DF: 63450; GSF: 63450; Tricast. C58564.

2.05: 1. SCARLETT'S BOY (T G McLaughlin) 4-1; 2. Trojan Girl 15-8 fav; 3. Northern Swengas 2-1 8 ran. 11/h, ric. [N Llittroden) Totas: 6440, 6220; 6130; DF: 6330; GSF: 67105; NR: Carryouthearme.

2.40: 1. INCEPTA (T G McLaughin) 7-2 fav; 2. Nated Oat 5-; 3. ficram Boy 8-1. 11 ran. H. 31/h, (P McEntee), Tota: 6570; 6200, 6140, 6240; DF: 6820; CSF: 61796; NR. Alarmang Motown, Calya Halo.

3.15: 1. WEETA-48010TE (A Othane) 6-1; 2.

Assuming Mount, Calys Factor 2.15: 1. WEEFA-MINUTE (A Culture) 6-1; 2. Byzantium 3-1 fav. 3. Failed To Hit 9-2 8 ran. 37., 17 / 18 Holinshead: Tote: \$680; £190. £160. £130. DF: £1296 ÇSF: £2189 Tricast £8018. C30. DF: P280 CSF: P289 Incast Bulls 3.48: 1, BONNE VILLE (G Faulorer) 4-1; 2. Bepetrof 6-1; 3. Portite Sophie 7-1, 12 man. 5-2 te Berneret 37, 3%, (B Paling) Inter 550; 130, 220, 270, DF: 2470, CSF: C278, 4.18: 1, HI MILITAHID (S Righten) 25-1; 2. Cold Front 5-1; 3. Dallight Of Dawet 11-2, 13 man. 3-1 tay Sr Walter 17, 174, (Mrs H Welton), Totas 19840, C0180, C220, C170, DF: 22700, CSF: 22438, Tricser 173865 22/00 CSP: 22438 Incast 2/3464 4.45: 1. MRKE'S DOUBLE (R Proci 7-2 ji fav. 2. Mary Hammeh 20-1: 2. Sotoniam 9-1: 10 ran. 7-2 ji fav Dava Rock. V., 2/1. JMS N McCudey/ Rote: 6400; 6130, 6360; 6210 DF. 52850 CSP: 57457, Treast: 656305. Piacepot: 618330. Quadpot: 61060 Place 8: £18641. Place 5: £46.72.

LEOPARDSTOWN 2.40: 1. HIS SONG (J R Berry) 5-2 fav; 2. Native Estates 5-1; 3. Amborieloft House 25-1 9 ran. Micko's Dreem 6-1 (4th). 8. 10. (M Morris). Tote: £280, £160, £200, £770.

Ten missing as storm hits Sydney-Hobart



A FULL-SCALE search was underway yesterday for a missing yacht with nine crew, and a crewman who was washed overboard from another yacht, as storm force winds whipped the Bass Strait into its malevolent worst while the Telstra Sydney to Hobart race fleet was making the crossing. Questions were already being asked in both Sydney and Canberra about the wisdom of starting the race

with such storms forecast. A message from the 54-y old yacht Winston Churchill said it was taking water badly and the crew was preparing life rafts. The radio relay vessel Young Endeavour, a brigantine given by

SAILING BY STUART ALEXANDER

to the position given by the yacht's owner, Stepben Stanley. but found nothing.

Three Australian Navy belicopters also found nothing during an intensive, night-long search and they were due to be joined at first light by fixed wing RAAF Orlons.

In a second operation, a Sea vision and beat seeking equipment to look for a crewman washed overboard from the 43foot Sword of Orion as the bad Britain to mark Australia's 200th 115 Boxing Day starters to reanniversary celebrations, went tire in the first 24 bours.

All shipping in the area had been alerted and a Royal Australian Navy frigate, HMAS Newcastle, was waiting for daylight to join in the search for the man, who was lost from the Rob Kotag-skippered yacht when it was dismasted. Injuries to other crew included a broken leg.

Earlier an American, John Campbell, bad been winched suffering from hypothermia after 40 minutes in the water. Plattner's Morning Glory. The vacht, Kingurra, had been whipped up by winds gusting up to 50 knots. In another heliweather forced at least 37 of the copter operation, the entire crew of 12 was lifted off James Hallion's Stand Aside.

At the front of those battling on. Larry Ellison, who runs an American computer software company, was on course to set a record in his 80-foot maxi Sayonara. With America's Cup skipper Chris Dickson flown in from his honeymoon to take charge, the 1995 race's fastest performer was nearly four bours ahead of schedule at the out of the water 19 miles south halfway mark to beat the race of Gabo Island. He was rescued. record of 2days 14 hr 7min 10sec, set in 1996 by Hasso

The wind strength was easrolled in 15 to 20 foot waves ing, which would not only hring some relief to those struggling hut also allow Sayonara to power back up to the 14-knot average it had been achieving in the early stages.

Spurs meet the FA Cup criteria

TOTTENHAM LOOK a fair bet at 14-1 with William Hill and Stanley to win the FA Cup ahead of the third round. Spurs have all the ingredients the ante-post BY IAN DAVIES punter should look for before placing a Cup bet

They are a useful Premiership side - though not so useful that they will be distracted either by European commitments or a serious assault on the title - and therefore need a Cup victory for a place in Europe next season. Best of all they bave an easy home tie which should safely see them through to the fourth-round West Ham (20-1 with Lad-

SPORTS BETTING

with Stanley are the other attractively-priced Premiership sides, who meet the above

criteria. On the European front. Parma, whose parsimonious defence has been the envy of Serie A this term, are the

brokes) and Leicester (28-1

Celta Vigo. travelling well in La Liga, and Marseilles, the

favourites for the Uefa Cup but Bordeaux, their quarter-final opponents, will be no pushovers, while Roma face a tight tie with Atletico Madrid. Bologna will be favourites to beat Lyons, but the tie between

son (Swel 2:09.97 | 1:02.29. 1:07 68], 6

J. Kostelic (Croa) 2:10.12 | 1:02 80.
1:07.32|, 7 M Ertl (Ger] 2:10.13
11:02.06, 1:08 07); B S Nef (Swit)
2:10.31 | 1:02.17, 1:08 14]; 9 P Wiberg
(Swe) 2:10.46 | 1:03.28, 1:07.18]; 10 5
Pretnar (Sloven) 2:10.53 (1:02.97, 1:07.56) Scandings: 7 Meissnitzer 360
pts: 2 Fiermen 239; 3 Wachter 196; 4
Heeb 160; 5 Kostelic 152. Overall | after 138 events); 1 Meissnitzer 691pts.
2 Ertl 540; 3 R Götschl (Aut) 485; 4 H
Gerg (Ger) 460; 5 Wiberg 409.

TODAY'S

NUMBER

20m

The amount in

pounds sterling that

the former England

coach Geoff Cooke

believes England's

top rugby clubs will

lose between them

this season.

Gerg (Ger) 460: 5 Wiberg 409.

French league leaders, looks too tight to call at this stage. The Cup-Winners' Cup looks three-horse race. Lazio,

Rome's big summer spenders, and Chelsea, the holders, bead the market, with only Real Mallorca, a revelation in Lu Ligo this term, seriously fancied to trouble them. Lokomotiv Moscow (who

face Maccabi Haifat are a fair side on their day, but it is bard to see Locomotiv's opponents. Panionios (who play Lazio), Valerenga (who face Chelsea) or Varteks Varazdin (who play Real Mallorca¹ making much

UEFA CUP Parma 7-2 11-4 11-4 11-4 5-1 7-2 4-1 7-2 4-1 7-2 Atletico Madrid 1:- 7-1 7-1 5-1 5-1 Bologna 5:1 7-1 5-1 7-1 4-1 Celta Vigo 5:1 6: 7-1 11-2 3-2 18-1 4-1 7-1 6-1 15-2 -0-1 (6-1 10-) 12-1 12-1 20-1 (6-) 16-0 (6-) 15-1

 C
 H
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 Lazio
 31.2
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 6-4
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 Chelsea
 15.5
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 15.6

 Rhai Malforta
 7-2
 9-2
 9-2
 2-1
 7-2
 1. Moscous 12-1 2-1 13-1 3-1 11-1 Maccabi Haifa 28-1 23-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Paulonios 261 33-1 25-1 33-1 25-1 Marcels 26-1 55-1 25-1 40-1 75-1 Marcels 26-1 55-1 25-1 50-1 26-1

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

SPORTING DIGEST WORLD CUP | Semmering, Aut): Women's glant statom: 1 A Wochter (Aut) 2 min 07.90 sec [first leg 1 min 01.35sec, second leg 1 min 06.55sec): 2 A Meissnitzer [Aut) 2:08.64 (1.01 18, 1:07.46); 3 A Flemmen (Nor) 2:09.33 [1:02.56, 1:06.75]; 4 B Heb [Liech] 2:09.55 [1:01.75, 1.07.80]; 5 A Ottoson (Swel 2:09.97 [1:02.29, 1:07.68), 5 [Kostelin; (Lrona 2:10.12, 11:02.80]

AMERICAN FOOTBALL NFL: (Sat) Tennessee 16 Minnesota 26; Oakland 24 Kansas City 31. BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Group A |Sat) Manchester 121 Thames Valley 118: (Vesterday) Sheffield BS Manchester B3. ER LEAGUE: Derby 81 Milton

FOOTBALL Borussia Dortmund have signed the German goalkeeper Jens Leh-mann from Milan for a fee of

ICE HOCKEY ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Carolina 3 NY Rangers 6: NV Islanders 4 Boston 2; Tampa Bay 1 Florida 3; Toronto 1 Monneal 2, New Jersey

O Buffalo 2: Putsburgh 2 Ottawa 1 (of); Chicago 2 Philadelphia 3; Nashville 3 Washington 1, St Louis 4 Detroit 3, Colorado 2 Daltas 4; San Jose 2 Vancouver 0; Los Angeies 1 Phoenix 2. SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Notring-ham 1 Cardiff 4; Sheffield 2 Manches-ter 2 (ot): Newcastle 3 Ayr 3 (ot).

RUGBY LEAGUE FRIENDLY MATCHES: Featherstone 12 Castleford 25; Leeds 12 Halifax 6.

SAILING

Britain's Mike Golding expects to complete the second leg of the Around Alone race from Cape Town to Auckland early on New Year's Eve and extend Team Group 4's lead over Marc Thiercelin to more than a day at the halfway point. Golding is just over 200 miles behind the leg leader, Giovanni Soldini. His advantage over Isabelle Autissier is almost 400 miles.

White to the rescue Vikings

BASKETBALL

JOHN WHITE scored a season's best 54 points as Manchester Giants improved their chances of reaching the last eight of the Uni-Ball Trophy with a 121-118 victory over Thames Valley Tigers after two periods of overtime. White rescued the Giants in

the first additional period, nailing a three-pointer on the buzzer to push the game into a second extra session. Tigers' Casey Arena had earlier taken the game into overtime with a three-pointer of his own with

the clock running out. In the United States, the players' union director, Billy Hunter, anxious to close a deal but still fearful of getting a poor result for his members, said negotiations to end the NBA lock-out should resume later this week. He said be was planning to return to New York

Rampant

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS became the highest-scoring team in NFL history on Saturday. They needed 12 points to break the single-season scoring record held by the 1983 Washingtor. Redskins and their 26-12 defeat of the Tennessee Oilers in Nashville took them to 556 points.

The victory meant they finished the season at 15-1, only third team tu do so. Both the others - the San Francisco 49ers, in 1984, and the Chicago Bears, the following year - won the Super Bowl that season. Minnesota's lone lose was at Tampa Bay, 27-24.

Minneson's Cary and rson completed to 1975 to a perfect season for a contract of the 35 succession from goals and 59 extra points. His points total of 164 was a record taily for a kicker, beating Mark Moseley's in an effort to re-open talks. | 161 for the '83 Redskins.

Gloves off as Stewart strikes back

been a perennial question asked of Alec Stewart. On a cold windy day more reminiscent of Manchester in April than Melbourne in summer, the answer was emphatically delivered. Dispensing with wicket-keeping gloves and returning to open the innings, Stewart scored his first Test century against Australia. He now has a Test hundred against every Test playing nation save India.

If it was not overly cheery news for England – they still managed to lose their last seven wickets for 70 runs – it was good news for wicketkeepers. For now, the vacancy is being filled by Warren Hegg, a decision Stewart claimed was made 40 minutes before the scheduled start on Boxing Day morning, after Alex Tudor pulled up lame with a sore hip.

"Playing Alex was an attempt to be positive," Stewart said. "When he wasn't fit, I wanted to do something that appeared to be attacking, so I moved up to opening and gave Heggy the gloves. If Tudor had played, I'd definitely have kept wicket."

Stewart, however, has never made any secrets about preferring to open the innings. "Tve kept wicket in order to give us options whether it be five bowiers, or, as has tended to happen here, seven batsmen. Obviously I'm not saying I'll never keep wicket again, or that I won't open again, Just that I'll always try and do what the selectors feel is best for the side. Obviously, if we'd have done well, I'd have kept all series."

But England have done far from well, especially in the Tests completed, and taking on

BY DEREK PRINGLE in Melbourne

three jobs (keeping, batting and captaining) against a side as combative as Australia, was always going to require one glowing CV too many.

If the theory looked sus-

tainable, the practical has proved otherwise, and against these opponents, this, as the following figures prove, was a compromise too many.

As a keeper/batsman in Tests, Stewart has batted 76 times, scored 2,310 runs, with three centuries at an average of 33.47. When unencumbered with the gloves, that increases to 3,564 runs from 77 innings at an average of 48.78, including nine hundreds.

Mind you, Stewart's shedding of the gloves is not the only strategic pillar likely to be abandoned. Apparently David Lloyd, the coach, has intimated that he will resign after the World Cup. three months before his contract is up. Lloyd has been under pres-

sure this tour, but he is no footwork. more culpable than anyone else involved in management, and probably a great deal less than most of the players, who come to him the products of a flawed system. In fact, aside from the occasional ill-timed outhurst, he has made sure his players have received every available tool to improve their game. With him as coach, England have not wanted for energy and ideas and he should not allow himself to be pushed.

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD

b S R Waugh 120 mln, 92 bulls, 5 fours G A Hick c Fleming b MacGill....... 83 mln, 67 bulls, 3 fours, 1 six 1W K Hegg c Healy b S Waugh 11 mln, 5 bulls ARC Fraser not out 11 min. 2 balls A O Mullally Ibw b MacGill...

Stemart's 50: 91 min, 66 balls, 8 fours. 100: 189 min, 142 balls, 16 fours.

Fall: 1-13 (Sater) 2-26 (Caylor).
To bat: S R Waugh, O S Lehmann, 11 A Healy, O W Fleming, M J Nicholson, S C G MacGill, G O McGrath.
Bowting: Googh 7-5-15-2 [nb2];
Headiey 7-1-18-0 (nb2); Medialty
3-1-12-0; Ramprakash 1-0-5-0 (one soell each).

spell each).
Progress: 50: 67 min, 14.2 overs. Bad light stopped play: 6.13pm.
Umplres: S A Bucknor (WI) and O J Harper [Aus].

the entire first day of the match under covers was not without its uncertainty and fortune. Ap-Australia 59-2

parently, damp spots had formed under the covers and ground staff were up with the larks to dry them with giant hlowers. Despite the lastminute cosseting to the pitch, the new ball was always likely to move about. Re-united with Michael Atherton, he quickly lost his partner for a duck in the opening over of the day.

two-paced pitch that had spent

Atherton is having a luckless series and, judging by the glare he gave the umpire Steve Bucknor, and the ensuing shake of the head, he obviously felt that he had not edged the leg-cutter Glenn McGrath had bowled him. TV replays, if not categoric in supporting the batsman's ire, did not confirm the edge either.

It got worse in McGrath's next over when Stewart, having seen his old partner depart, then lost his brother-in law for a duck as well. Despite his century in the opening Test, Mark Butcher has looked well short of his best and he was well caught off bat and pad by Justin Langer at short leg, a dismissal that owed much to his tentative

Having begun streakily, his first two opening shots were boundaries off edges that might easily have gone to hand, Stewart continued to score at a cracking rate. On four when joined at the crease by Nasser Hussain, Stewart dominated the 77-run partnership to such an extent that the Essex batsman had made just 19 when he pushed carelessly at a wide one from Matthew Nicholson, a mistake that gave the debutant fast bowler a fortuitous first Test scalp.

Nicholson, who took seven wickets against England for Western Australia at the start of the tour, did not find the strong winds to his liking. Apart from the wicket, his 10 overs went at nearly six runs an over, a major haemorrhage induced mainly by Stewart, who played a series of cuts and pull shots.

Joined by Mark Ramprakash, who virtually matched his England began to take control. Bringing up his hundred with an all-run four off Stuart MacGill, Stewart became the first England captain since Mike Denness in 1975 to pass three figures at the MCG.

Soon after Ramprakash reached his fifty from 69 balls, a milestone that also saw the 200 up in 51.4 overs, a run-rate rarely achieved against a side



The England captain, Alec Stewart, soaks up the applause after his first century against Australia

as disciplined as Australia. Brisbane that is no guarantee looked surprised when Buc- few balls later, he found the toe England have been here before in the series, though, and, like partner's telling strokeplay, a nightmare from which they cannot escape, hegan once again to lose wickets, despite the home side having to resort to Steve Waugh.

Having started positively against MacGill, Stewart tried instead to be smart by sweeping too fine, and was bowled round his legs. Had he not predetermined the stroke, he could have met it on the full toss, though after his demise in Hegg stood his ground and

Rhodes to the fore and in spite

fast outswing bowling. South

Africa consolidated their ad-

vantage on the second day of

home-town crowd of more than

crossroads at 140 for 4, an-

swering the inadequate West

Indies' 198 of the first day. Typ-

ically all action from the start,

he dominated successive part-

nerships of 42 with Daryll Cul-

At 292 for 8, the lead was 94,

and two wickets still intact.

healthy lead.

the third Test yesterday.

of Franklyn Rose's inspired

against dismissal either. An knor gave him out. over later, Waugh showed why it is dangerous to treat him lightly and Ramprakash paid dearly when he casually lifted

a drive to mid-on.

Once again England had contrived to raise Australia's game by hringing two new batsmen to the crease. Hegg, his first Test innings not one to savour, quickly gave Waugh a second wicket, as he edged an outswinger. Like Atherton,

At 206 for 6, Stewart's efforts could easily have been in vain. Instead, a flurry from Graeme Hick and some solid defending from Dean Headley allowed 38 runs to he added before Head-

ley nibbled at McGrath. Hick, told to be positive when batting with the tail, took the opportunity to thump MacGill for a huge six over midwicket that must have carried all of 90 yards. Unfortunately, when Hick tried to repeat the feat a

of the bat and holed out at mid-on. The last two wickets both fell to MacGill and the leggie finished with 4 for 61.

With 27 overs of the day remaining, Gough tore in, clocking the fastest ball of the day, a 145kmh thunderbolt. Bowling a tight line, his persistence proved too much for Michael Slater, who was plumb lbw. Not long after, Mark Taylor edged to Hick at second slip. Unlike previous Tests, this time the

on Curtly Ambrose, who had a

rare off-day. Twice he pulled him

on to the grass banks at square-

leg, taking 16 off an over, and he

gained another four from an em-

barrassing Ambrose misfield.

Second day, South Africa won toss
WEST INDRES - First fanings 198 (B
C Lara 51)
SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings

SCOREBOARD

An open and shut case for selectors



BLOFELD IN MELBOURNE

ALEC STEWART should be forced to hurn his wicketkeeping gloves - and it would not cause him to lose any sleep. At last, he has been restored to his rightful position at the top of the order and, after a little hit of early luck, he played as well as he has ever done and underlined how much this England team has been handicapped by not having him open the innings in the first three Tests. Seldom can an object lesson have been so forcibly taught.

It has been nonsense putting such a good player of fast bowling down the order where he has been full of doubts against the spinners, in order that he can take care of the wicketkeeping duties in addition, of course, to captaining the side. A good deal of meddling and reorganising had to go on so that he could go back to his rightful position and Warren Hegg has had to take over behind the stumps. It all worked beautifully.

Stewart is worth far more to this England side as an opening batsman than he is as a keeper, even if it means that the side becomes badly balanced. Stewart is such a dominating player, one of the few able to take the initiative from the best new-ball bowlers in the world.

There is an authority about his batting, which is not given to many. To hide him away in the middle-order where he struggles against spin is incredibly short-sighted.

He made 63 not out in England's second innings two weeks ago. But it was an innings which, saw almost none of those upright strokes which have broken the hearts of so many new-ball bowlers all over the world. It is an affront to nature to use him in this sort of defensive capacity and it renders him powerless.

It was a late decision to move him back up the order and it was only when the players arrived at the ground that Stewart told Hegg that he had a chance of playing. In the sinnings England have had in this series before this one in Melbourne, Mike Atherton and Mark Butcher's opening partnerships have averaged only 18 and none of their runs has

been made with any authority. Stewart survived two snicks against Damien Fleming, but then began to square cut and pull with both a power and a dis-dain which bowlers do not take kindly to. Intermingled between these strokes were some lovely fluent drives and they had an effect not only on the Australian. bowlers but also on the batsmers at the other end. Nasser Hussain began to play extremely well before a sudden and unusual misjudgement forced him into a forward defensive stroke against Matthew Nicholson and he was caught behind.

When Mark Ramprakash took Hussain's place, he, too, found Stewart's strokeplay infectious and played his best innings of the series. It was sad that both were out to casual strokes in successive overs, but by then Stewart had made his point. He has surely guaranteed Hegg a second Test match, in Sydney, and has caused Eng land's uninspiring selectors to think a few things through.

They have now to try to find a way to prevent the side being as unbalanced as it seems when Stewart no longer keeps wicket. One way of doing this would be actively to encourage Ramprakash to spend much more time working on his off-hreaks. He has the ability to become a regular rather than a part-time bowler but be badly needs as much bowling as be can get.

His lapses in length are the result more than anything of an appalling lack of practice. Stewart has not appeared to rate his bowling that highly but if he wants to discard those gloves on a permanent basis, one way of ensuring it would be to give Ramprakash a chance to become a front-line bowler. They also have to decide if Hegg is the best wicketkeeping option. or whether Paul Nixon's batting might make him a better bet.

Call to ban Warne, Waugh

have rejected a proposal from the sub-continent that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh should he banned for life after admitting they took money from an illegal bookmaker four years

Mai Speed, the Australian Cricket Board chief executive duce life hans for players officer, said the pair could not involved in illegal betting on be banned because they had al- cricket matches. ready been punished for their

SKI HOTLINE

ficially closed. Speed was responding to an

announcement by Khalid Mahmood, the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, that his board and those of India and Sri Lanka wanted the International Cricket Council to intro-

Waugh and Warne have ad-

an Indian bookmaker during a limited-overs tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994 hut deny any involvement in match-fixing.

Mahmood said the three sub-continental countries wanted the ICC to make an example of the two Australians. He said the proposal would be raised at next month's meeting of ICC executive board members in Christchurch.

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

SKI HOTLINE	Resort	Area	Comment	Slope	es (cm)	Last	Тетр	Forecast
Detailed independent snow and weather reports from 180 resorts	ANDORRA	open		Lwr	Upr	STIOW		
First, obtain the access code for the resort of your choice.	ArinsalAUSTRIA	90°>	Good on upper rur	rs 55	80	21.12	-10	Chargeable
Phone or Fax 0870 51 00 843	tschgi	.100%	Good skiing	30	150	22.12	-5C	Cloudy
(the fax lists codes for 180 re- sorts)	St Wolfgang CANADA	100%	Cover throughout	80	100	21.12	-2C	Cloudy
To listen to the latest snow and weather report:	Jasper FRANCE	85%	Packed powder	65	85	25.12	-10C	Snow
Phone 0901 47 70 051 + code	Flaine	60%	Upper runs best	60	150	21.12	-10	Pt cloudy
For a fax copy of the latest snow	Morzine	90%	Terrain opening	30	90	24.12	-10	Cloud
and weather report:	Arabba	15%	Umited terrain	10	20	20,12	-6C (Changeable
Fax 0906 55 00 086 + code	Courmayeur NORWAY	40%	Some fresh powd	er10	30	21.12		Changeable
SNAPSHOT	SWITZERLA		Reasonable skiling	20	50	11,12	-500	lear/bright
A detailed four-page summary of conditions in 180 resorts	St Monitz		Excellent cruising	10	50	21,12	-5C	Sunny
Fax 0906 55 00 601	Squaw Valley	90%	Packed powder	S 5	175	21.12	-10 (Clear/surery
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TRAFEL PASIF ANCES

DION NASH and Daniel Vettori India 208 resurrected a sagging New Zealand innings to give the hosts a handy lead over India on the second day of the second Test in Wellington yesterday. Nash was on 56 and the

spinner Vettori on 35 as the pair guided New Zealand from 208 for 7 to 290 for 7 at stumps in reply to India's 208. India, spurred by a fine spell of bowling by Javagal Srinath, crawled back into the contest after lunch when the Kiwis lost four

Rhodes takes safety course WITH THE ehullient Jonty BY TONY COZIER

in Durban

West Indies 198 South Africa 292-8

ule. It was an incongruous de-Rhodes entered to the usual cision under floodlights that rapturous reception from a were in use since 25 minutes after lunch for the second suc-14,000 with the innings at the cessive grey, overcast day.

Only Rose, the 26-year-old Jamaican who was fast becoming the forgotten man of West Indies cricket, restrained the South Africans. In his first Test of the series, he disposed linan and 80 with Shaun Pollock of the openers Herschelle that guaranteed South Africa a Gibbs and Gary Kirsten, and Jacques Kallis, in an exemplary Rhodes dictated terms. He morning spell of 11 successive with Rhodes unbeaten on 85 overs for 30 runs.

Whenever the situation when the umpires Dave Orseemed to be slipping compchard and Russell Tiffin halted letely out of their grasp, Rose counter-attacked and. by the intervened for the West Indies. play 12.4 overs ahead of sched-

New Zealand 290-7

Dravid grassed two.

Srinath extracted discon-

certing bounce and peppered

the New Zealand middle-order

before Anil Kumble (3 for 67)

seized two of the four wickets

His whistling return to the fours. He was especially harsh wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs from third man ran out the dangerous Cullinan for 40 as he attempted a second run and, with Rhodes and Pollock entrenched, he returned to strike three times with the second

Carl Hooper's hreathtaking catch at second slip accounted for Pollock for 30, the keeper Mark Boucher lost his offstump to an unstoppable late outswinger three balls later and Pat Symcox was bowled off his pads just as Orchard was raising his finger for lbw.

came in when the captain Hansie Cronie was bowled by Courtney Walsh for 30 half an hour after lunch and immediately close, had two sixes and eight

For almost three hours. To bat: 0.1 Terbrugge. Fall: 1-57 2-79 3-80 4-140 5-182 6-262 7-262 8-284 7-262 8-284

Bowling: Ambrose 17-1-60-0 (nb10):
Walsh 27-5-60-1 (nb2); Rose 25-2-6-75-6
(w1): Lewis 20-2-70-0; Hooper 4-0-18-0

Umpfrest: D L Orchard and P. B Tiffin
(2m).

Nash gives New Zealand a late lift

to fall between lunch and tea. New Zealand went into lunch Srinath triggered the middleon 132 for 3, but gave away a po- order collapse with the wicket

of Craig McMillan, hrilliantly SCOREBOARD caught by Dravid for 24.

McMillan and Nathan Astle sition of strength. India did well put on a stubborn 50 runs for to break the backbone of the the fourth wicket after New New Zealand innings after five Zealand had lost the two dropped catches. The viceovernight batsmen - Matthew captain, Ajay Jadeja, put down Horne and Stephen Fleming three of them, while Rahul in the morning.

Horne and Fleming figured in a forceful 72-run stand before disaster struck. Fleming was needlessly run out going for a second run and Horne, dropped on 22 and 27, was finally beaten by a Kumble top-spinner that hurried on to the opener and bowled him.

Second day: India won toss INDIA - First kinkings 208 (M Azharud-din 103: S B Ooull 7-65). NEW ZEALAND - First Inclines

| Website | Webs O L Vettori not out Extras (bB lb17 nb5) . 35 . 30 To bat: 5 & Doull, P J Wiseman To bath 5 8 Doull, P J Wiseman Bowling: Srinath 30.4-81-1 [nb5]: Prasad 23-6-57-2 Kumble 37-14-67-3 Singh 16-3-47-0, Ganguly 6-0-13-0 Umphres: E A Nicholls [Wil) and E A

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Care Care

THE INDEPENDENT Monday 28 December 1998 All Leicester had to worry By David Liewellan All Leicester had to worry By David Liewellan

ALL LEICESTER.

bout was maintaining their subout was maintaining their subout weightiest thing on the mind of weightiest thing on the mind of Colorards. Their rugby manager, was keeping down the number of tries against struggling Bedford.

We have conceded 10 tries in the last three league games and the motivation for today was not bow many points we scored, hut that we didn't concede any. The 10 tries really grated, it is not acceptable," said a disgruntled Richards. No wonder, because before those three games, which began with Wasps running six past them last month, Leicester had let in just II tries.

But true to the form of a side at the head of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, the Tigers duly kept out an eager, hut ultimately overpowered Bedford. The smile was back on the face of the old Tiger.

The contrast between that and the troubles and travails of Rudi Straeuli. is glaring. The Bedford director of rugby is assailed almost every day with some fresh hell. The conceding of tries, the total Bedford have let in is now 50, must he the least of his worries.

This was their ninth defeat on the trot and the former Springbok is unhappy about that. "I've lost nine games in a row and it has never happened to me, Not even at school," said the shell-shocked Straeuli.

Add to that the fact that Straeuli's own playing future hangs in the halance - he is awaiting a medical report on an Achilles tendon injury - but he had, in any case, announced his retirement from playing last month. Perhaps realising the folly of that, because bis work permit states that be is granted permission to reside in this country as a professional player, not as a coach, Straeuli has Deen on the bench since then.

But there is every likelihood that the Home Office will want to re-examine Straeuli's status at Goldington Road, either when his work permit runs out in June next year, or earlier, if they feel be is in breach of the conditions. So there is one more problem for him worry

But Straeuli is nothing if not an bonourable man and he bas a sound ethos.

"My goal was to get Bedford into the First Division and keep them there, so I am still fighting my corner. My goal, which some people are saying is unrealistic is to keep Bedford stable in the First Division, working within the financial budget that they can afford. That's difficult."

Made even more so by the loss of key personnel. "People have just jumped ship," he said. perbaps having a swipe at coach Paul Turner (now with Saracens) and the man Straeuli replaced as director of rugby, Geoff Cooke.

"I could easily find a job back home. I've got a law degree. I've had offers, but I've signed a contract and I've got a moral responsibility to these boys at Bedford. I've got to keep on going."

His team is certainly not without heart. The spirit is willing, sadly the flesh is not there. And not even Rory Underwood. playing his first competitive match since leaving Welford Road in 1997 could mark his return with a try for old times' sake. With no financial means to attract the necessary key personnel Straeuli is in a straitjacket. And that is another problem. While the club is confident that the next pay day in January will be met through the club's day-to-day earnings, the long-term financial future is still in the lap of the gods, or at least the legal authorities.

Owner Frank Warren's assets have been frozeo pending a legal case against the American boxing promoter Don King, which is to be heard on 11 January: One way or the other Warren's assets will he released, but just how much will survive the hearing is another source of anxiety.

All they can do is persevere with what cash and playing resources they have to band. But Straeuli must wisb be were in a position to say what Richards said after the Tigers second clean sbeet of the season. "We have a squad that could, potentially, win the title, but it is going to take an awful lot of hard work." Richards said.

He is right of course. Tigers "I've got a responsibility to-wards Bedford." he explained. from their cosy Welford Road



The Leicester flanker, Darren Garforth, is wrapped up by the Bedford defence as he goes on the charge at Welford Road

den - Harlequins, Northampton, Bath, Saracens and Newcastle among them - but as the season slips past the half-way mark and into the New Year, the sound money would be resting on Leicester lifting the title

rather than on Bedford staying

learn from earlier, costly mis-Back's price when Lad-

broke's began their temporary sojourn at the ground was p. 25-1, and they had to pay out. On lay out a penny for fear of miership's list of leading try
The sound money is also Saturday, the seventh and last reprisals. For all that, Back scorers.

of the experimental period, the would not have minded the still being put on Neil Back to score the first try of the game. bookmakers had to cough up for The bookmaker refuses to a fourth time and yet had only cut the odds to 7-1.

But if his team-mates are tempted to put their jerseys on the England flanker, the club has ordered the players not to Guscott of Bath in the Pre-

odd fan showing their appreciation of his efforts, "I've not had so much as a pint," he said, after scoring his ninth try in the Premiership to move level with England colleague Jeremy

glowing future with London Scottish and Scotland after

organising a surprise victory

over Saracens on his club debut

at a rain-swept Vicarage Road

As Saracens, aiming for sec-

ond place in the Allied Dunbar

Premiership, lost their in-

ternational half-backs Kyran

Bracken and Alain Penaud with

injuries early on, Irving, the

Exiles' fourth-choice No 10 at

the start of the season, scored

Irving, from Sevenoaks in

Irving, who will be 19 this

week, has a Scottish father and

a balf-Scottish mother and was

snapped up by Scotland's

coach, was thrilled with the vic-

tory and said: "We have one of

the best defensive and disci-

plinary records in the Pre-

miership and our style held up

Saracens saw off an ominous

John Steele, the Exiles

Under-18 team last season.

one of Scottisb's three second-

and not machines.

yesterday.

Saracens fall

to youngster

BARRY IRVING looks set for a BY TERRY COOPER

London Scottish

Ryan Constable.

without reply.

downfield.

the lead in the 30th minute

when Brendon Daniel side-

stepped over after a break by

but the scoring dried up and

Iain McAusland's penalty in

first-half injury time was the

first of four Scottish scores

Scottish went ahead with a

try six minutes into the second

half when Ian Bonney, Sharman

hacked the ball all the way

added the points to Irving's try

eight minutes from time. That

put his side 17-7 ahead and the

evergreen lock Mick Watson

went over two minutes from

miss three weeks after being

taken off apparently concussed

and he was taken to hospital for

an X-ray on this cipeerbone:
Saracens: Tries Daniel Conversion
Johnson, Leadon Scottish: Tries Irang,
Milligan, M Watson: Conversions I McAusland 3; Penaltics I McAusland,
Saracens: Johnson: Daniel, Constable,
Rovenscroft, R Wallace; Penaud (Singer,
h-t), Bracken (Free, 4); Flatman (Reidy,
68), Chuter, P Wallace, Johns (Chesney,
49), Grewcock, Coker, Diprose, Plenaur,
Leadon Scottler, Mausland: Milliagan

London Scottish: McAusland; Milligan, Bonney, Eriksson, Sharman (Davis, 64). Irving, Easterby: Johnstone, Rudham (Cummins 73), Bunell, Jones, Watson Fean, Hunter, Holmes.

an x-ray on his cheekbone.

Bracken seems likely to

time for his side's third try.

McAusland converted and

Gavin Johnson converted.

son 3.
Lesianskern T Simpson, L Lloyd IM Horak, 167). 5 Potter, P Howard D Stuart, 45), 0 Lougheet, G Murphy, A Healey, G Rowenire, R Cockerill, D Carforn IO Jelley, 67, M Johnson, F van Heerden IN Flettner, 18-27 L 70). P Gustard, M Corry IA Balding, 74), N Back Badfordt, 8 Whetstone, R Underwood, D Harris D Ewens, 52), A Murdoch (copt), D O'Mahoney, T Yapp, R Elliott, A Ozdemlir, I Richards, V Harrising IC Boyd, 41), J Beardshaw U Cockle, 581, S Murray, P Winters, J Parlamote, J Forster

Imports keeping **Exiles** in touch

BY TIM GLOVER

Richmond

London Irish

THEY MAY be as Irish as Table Mountain hut Dick Best's recruitment of southern hemisphere talent is beginning to pay dividends. When the former England coach had a clear-out at the end of last season, bringing in a posse of South Africans and New Zealanders, his forecast for the new-look Irish was to occupy the middle ground of the Premiership.

After completing an impressive Christmas programme with victory over Richmond at the Madeiski Stadium before nearly 10,000 hardy souls on Saturday, Best was expanding his horizons. "The side is beginning to believe in itself," he said. "It's all mental... that magical word confidence. If we can win six or seven matches on the bounce I might have to revise my expectations,"

The next week or so will provide the acid test. London Irish. who began the season with a stunning victory at Newcastle. meet the champions at Sunbury on Saturday, followed by perhaps an even tougher challenge against Northampton at Franklin's Gardens a week tomorrow. "It would be a considerable achievement to complete the double over Newcastle," Best said, "Although I imagine it will be a fairly brutal affair. We have done a lot of work with the forwards. They're a bit lightweight hut in the last few games we've been back to our tenacious, scavenging selves."

Conversely Richmond, who thought their pre-season odds of 14-1 to win the Premiersbip were generous and irresistible, are finding that the space left by the return to Wales of Scott Quinnell is virtually unfillable. When John Kingston, the Richmond coach, signed Quinnell from Wigan on a five-year contract, it was on the understanding that be had comented the cornerstone to his pack.

Best may think the Irish eight is a bit lightweight but compared with Richmond 5 it was of sumo proportions. "Without six of our first-choice pack I'm not sure what more the team could have done." Kingston said. Nothing.

Richmond defended tenaciously and considering that they did not see the ball for long periods it was a minor miracle that they managed to score two tries to one.

Wisely ignoring the modern craze for kicking for position instead of at goal, the Irish, on a foul day, kept putting points on the board through Jarrod Cunningham. The New Zealander kicked all six penalties and converted Rob Gallacher's try.

"Looking at it coldly you might say the difference between the sides was the goalkicking," Kingston said, "But there was more to it than that." Deprived of their power forwards. Richmond have little strength in depth. Their annual wage bill is £1.7m and they are reluctant to add to it. Scott Quinnell's transfer fee to Llanelli has not been

touched. "Since Scott left I have been looking at bringing in a player but I have no awareness of what the season is going to he in the New Year," Kingston said. "It would be lunacy to sign a guy on a big contract when we may have a vacuum of sport in club terms for the next six months."

Richmond: Tries Pichor, Pini: Penalty
Wa's London Irish: Try Gallacher, Conversion Cunningham, Penalties Cunningham 6.
Richmond: M Pini: N Walne, A Bateman (M Dixon, 77), J Whight, S Brown: E Va'a, A Pichol (capil: O McFarland, A Curribert, J Davies, B Cusack, AC Coding, 57). C Gilles, M Swift (J Barfoot, 60). L Cobannes (G Powell, 76), R Hurton, London Irish: C O'Shea (capil: J Bushop).

Noming Irish: C O'Shea (capi): J Biahop, N Burrows, B Venier, J Cunningham, S Bachop, K Purt (K Campbell, 64): N Harley, M Howe (R Rurke, 51), K Fulman, K Spicer, M O'Nelly, J Boer, R Gallacher (Feaunac, 69), K Dawson

Brewer adds to West's ills

WEST HARTLEPOOL will have few better chances of causing an upset than this, but when are down on your luck the la. Thing you should do is take chances with the referee, esoccially if he has just warned you for foul play. There are few players in the West team who know better than to cross the

But the former All Black, now West's director of rughy who is only playing because of an injury crisis in his camp and who had been West's talisman utes left to play and all still to in a fighting performance at

fine line between the inadvis-

BY PAUL STEPHENS

West Hartlepool

moment of stupidity, which earned him 10 minutes in the sin-bin for taking out Doddie Weir at a line-out while the Newcastle jumper was still in mid-air. "I wasn't trying to take his legs away," Brewer said. "I able and the unacceptable than was hanging on to his shorts trying to stop him jumping. I don't think it deserved a white

> Until that point, with 18 minplay for, the champions had

regained the lead with a penalty goal by Jonny Wilkinson, to go 15-13 ahead after 12 minutes of the second half and, on the evldence of what had preceded the fairly innocuous incident which turned the game. Newcastle needed something special to break down the West defence. Much to their surprise it was Brewer who did it

While Brewer was serving bis punishment, Newcastle took full advantage and scored 14 points to protect their unbeaten league record on this ground which stretches back to kingston Park, virtually handbeen unsteady and uncertain in January 1996, and in so doing the match to Newcastle in a the face of some determined moved up a place in the table

for them.

to fifth, ahead of Harlequins on points difference. With West's seven-man scrum in all sorts of bother. Newcastle were able to release Va'aiga Tuigamala for their third try, and push West hack over their line for the fourth, which was claimed by their debutant scrum-half. Hall Charlton. Wilkinson converted both and Newcastle were in the

If West are to take any comfort from defeat, they can enter the New Year with their depleted stock of self-belief replenished substantially by their refusal to accept the inevitable. against superior opponents. Three times West led. Steven Vile gave them an early advantage with a penalty, while tries by Wilkinson and Ross Beattie were matched by those from Steve John and Shane McDonald, But for Brewer's misdemeanour they might have been the foundations for victory.

Newcascle: Tries Wilkinson, Beattle, Tulgamala, Charlton; Conversions Wilkinson 3: Penaltry Wilkinson, West Hartlepool: Tries John, McDonald: Penaltry Ville, Newcastle: S Legg; J Naylor, V Tuligamala (P Massey 75), J Wilkinson, M Wood; R Andrew (capt), H Charlton; G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter, D Weir, G Archer, P Watton, R Arnold (J Cartmell & J), R Beattle, West Hartlepool: E Farrell (P Greaves 66): J Benson, S John, P Tanginoa, G McLure; S Ville, R Stone: J J Van der Esch (S Sparks 75), S McDonald, P Beal, P Farner (capt), J Ponton, M Bendey, D Monkley, M Brever. Referee: S Piercy (Goole, W Yorkshire). icle: Tries Wilkinson, Beattle.

Kent, said: "I managed to thrive and try-scorer Kenny Milligan today. I faced international Sampson's late lesson for Gloucester back-rows before when I played for our second team against Harlequins. The Saracens back-row might all be internationals hut they are humans

where they were. Unfortunately on two occasions early on they were within Kenny Logan's range, and he landed penalties as the defence piled over the offside line

tacked from out wide where they had a distinct edge. Another Gloucester lapse in the 78th minute let Wasps in with a third Logan penalty. Injury time followed and ended Gloucester'a dream of adding to their solitary away win this season. Waspa: Tries Sampson, Le Chevallet, Con-versions Logan 2. Penalties Logan 3 Glocoster: Penalties Mapletoft 2, Fanolus.

P Volley.

Gloucesseer: C Catting, B Jornson, T Fanolus.
R Tombs, P Saint-André (R Greenslade-Jones.
29); M Mapterdr. I Sanders (S Benton, 67);
I Woodman, N McCarting, A Deacon, R Fider
(capt), M Comwell (S Ojomoh, 71), E
Pearce, S Ojomoh (O Sims, 66), K Jones IN
Carter, 61).

Westper J Lewise, P Sarroson, L Strase, R Hersterson, K Logar, A King, M Wood, O Moloy, T Leoto (5 Mirchell, 77), A Black (Le Cresalier, 52), A Reed (5 Shaw, 52), M Weedom (201), L Oblingia, J Worsley (P Schener, 45), P Volley,

start by the visitors during

which Rob Hunter Conan Sharman and Irving came within a yard of scoring and they took

magnificently today."

Stamping earns Morris suspension

THE SWANSEA prop Darren Morris has been banned for two matches following his sending-off for stamping during the Anglo-Welsh friendly against Bath. Swansea's director of rugby, Baden Evans, the Bath coach, Andy Rohinson, and

Morris was given his marching orders after 71 minutes for stamping on Andy Long at a would not be available to take ruck Long had to leave the field his place in Henry's squad. immediately after the incident But a disciplinary code for the

to have six stitches put in a wound on the back of his bead. Swansea recovered from the blow to humble the European

With the Five Nations looming and Wales still searching for

50 rebel friendly matches bas yet penalties gave Swansea the to be confirmed although under

missed all but two games this season because of a knee injury, helped himself to 20 points in front of Henry.

lead and when Colin Charvis was driven over for a try on 12 to convert from close in, Paul Arnold and Garin Jenkins added first-half tries and Thomas kicked two more penalties. Matthew Robinson scored two tries in as many minutes straight after the restart and though Ian Balshaw touched down for Bath, Swansea went even further ahead with a con-

in the League at Wasps, where they have not won in 12 years of the competition, they fell in the last minute of normal time to a Paul Sampson try which helped lift Wasps back to third place in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. if he fact that Gloucester plomptly conceded another in injury time was neither here nor there. It merely served to remind the Cherry and Whites that you have to keep going to made contact and, as might be

downright cruel at the moment.

Having been within a hand's Wasps breadth of ending a dismal run

his first Premiership since breaking an ankle in the summer, followed an astute kick by Wasps' stand-off, Alex King. Chris Catling missed the ball as it scudded across the turf, Sampson stuck out a boot. the end, whenever that may be. expected of someone who can

AS LUCK goes, Gloucester's is BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Gloucester

at Fortress Kingsholm. You'd think they would have learned.

The try for Sampson, making

RESULTS AND TABLES

Earlier this season it was a late cover 100m in 10.4sec, scram-

ANGLO WELSH

JEWSON NATIONAL

LEAGUE ONE

.....11 Lydney 27 Morley ...

Tham/Solibuli 6 Nottingham Wherfedale

bled to his feet, scorched past Gloucester's despairing defender, Rory Greenslade-Jones, and just got a hand to the ball.

Andy Le Chevalier's second try which earned Wasps victory try in as many matches a few minutes later was symptomatic of a side that had given its all and had nothing left in the tank.

It was a savage lesson, especially in the light of the way the whole side had defended until that Sampson try and particularly unfair for the pack, wbo comfortably outplayed their opposite numbers. The driving mauls were top class; the scrums were churning moments of power-play; and they

LEAGUE TWO NORTH

New Brightn 13 Preston Gr 15

Stourbridge 1311 0 2 374 212 22 Stourbridge 1311 9 0 4 283 205 18

Nuneaton13 7 2 4 285 278 16 Sedgley Pk 14 7 1 6 354 291 15 Kandal14 7 0 7 337 207

LEAGUE TWO SOUTH

.....53 Met Police6

ingto Pk...15 Sedgley Pk16

PWD L F APS 1413 0 1 460 212 26 1411 0 3 397 116 22

were at Wasps from the outset, knocking them backwards at every opportunity no matter

and then pulled down a maul.

But first Mark Mapletoft, back at fly-half, knocked over a penalty and while he was kicking his heels in the sin bin for a late shoulder charge on Wasps' scrum-half, Martyn Wood, Terry Fanolua popped over another. Mapletoft's second penalty woke up Wasps and they at-

BANK OF SCOTLAND Border League: Hawick O Peekles O (match abandoned after 30min): Jed-Forest 5 Kelso 31. Post-poded: Gala v Metrose

champions at St Helen's. Wales coach, Graham Henry, formed the disciplinary panel.

a competent loosehead prop, there were fears that Morris

normal rulings Morris would have been out for anything minutes Thomas was on hand hetween six to eight weeks. Arwel Thomas proved the difference between the teams as Swansea coped far better with the torrential rain. The diminutive stand-off, who has

His first of three first-half verted penalty try.

Wasps	2	3	Gk	ж	este	ſ	,
	P	w	\mathbf{n}	L			
Leicester .	14	11	0	3	423	236	23
N'hæpton	15	10				272	
Saracens						307	
Wasps			0			272	
Newcastle	13	6	0			313	
Harlequins	.13	8	0	5	338	325	10
Barh	.13	7	0	6	342	264	14
L Irish	14	7	0	7	345	347	14
Richmond	13	7	0	8	340	351	14
GI73cester	.14	7	0	7	299	310	14
	.14	5	Ü	9	322	397	10
_ = Cottish.	13	4	0	9	238	317	8
Bedford			Ö	12	294	448	4
W H'pool						539	

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

..26 Bedford ...

riequins17 Sale

Reid

accepts

surprise 1-0 Boxing Day defeat at Tranmere could work in

Scott Taylor's goal inflicted on the second defeat of the season on the Wearsiders and

with Ipswich beating Ports-

mouth 3-0, Sunderland's lead at

the top of the First Division is

the bottom club on a high after

only their fourth victory in 25

games – a 3-1 win against Bury. Reid said: "You can't expect to

win every match and possibly

it's the kick up the backside we

"I warned the players before

the match that with such a

bad home record, Tranmere

were sure to put up a tremen-

dous battle because they're a

good team, and unfortunately I

Dario Gradi, the Crewe

manager, said: "We'll go up

there to enjoy ourselves as

was right."

They host Crewe today with

now down to five points.

their favour.

Wenger troubled by lack of goals

their Premiership title is once again heing undermined by strike problems. Not only is Nicolas Anelka likely to be out for at least three weeks but they have limited options for today's trip to Charlton.

With Christopher Wreh failing to provide the answers to their problems up front against West Ham, Fabian Caballero suspended and the winger Marc Overmars never quite as comfortable through the middle, Arsène Wenger's problems appear to be lack of strength-

in-depth up froot. Nigel Winterburn is ready to return at full-back at Chariton after being an unused substitute against West Ham following injury, although David Seaman, Stephen Hughes, Tony Adams and Fredrik Ljungberg are still out.

Wenger may think he has problems, but they are nothing compared to his opposite number. Alan Curbishley, who, in a hizarre twist to his problems, claims player power is pre-venting him splashing out on new talent. Curbishley is also facing a striker crisis – he was missing both first-choice forwards for defeat at Wimbledon oo Saturday - but has not raided his estimated transfer kitty

The Charlton manager is worried that any new signings' wage demands will upset the players already at the Valley Curbishley said: "If we spend money on a new player it needs to be someone who can give the whole team a boost. I'm not happy if the players are uncomfortable with the fees and wages I'm paying to new signings.

Chariton have off-loaded Eric Wynalda, the United States looks favourite to step in. striker, after a trial period at The derby, but another striker, Clive Mendonca, is doubtful.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, will go into the game at Derby without the central defeoder Gary Pallister. who aggravated a heel injury during Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Liverpool, and he is likely to be replaced by Curtis Fleming. The Derby manager, Jim Smith, will be without Rory Delap, who went off at Goodison Park with knee ligament trouble and the Croatian defender Igor Stimac is still oot fit enough to return.



Winterburn: Fit again

was also substituted, will be fit to play after a minor leg injury. Walter Smith, the Everton manager, has instructed his team they must stop the Frenchman, David Ginola, if they are to get a result at Tot-

baller. He's a difficult player to stop when he's on his game, but you can be certain we will be trying our hest to keep him quiet," Smith said. Tottenham have the option of recalling Steffen Iverseo to bolster an attack which was again shot-shy Blackburn are struggling to

put together a full-strength side for their trip to play Leicester at Filbert Street. As well as being without Chris Sutton. who sustained a knee injury in the 2-1 win over Aston Villa, and Stéphane Henchoz, who limped off after 45 minutes with an Achilles injury, their manager Brian Kidd is still waiting on news of virus victims Nathan Blake and Darren Peacock. For Leicester, Muzzy Izzet looks set to miss the game with a recurrence of an ankle injury.

Robbie Fowler, whom the Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier insists is not for sale despite the interest of Arsenal, is a doubt for the visit of Newcastle. But there could be a return to the starting line-up for Steve McManaman, who played 14 minutes as a substitute in the win at Middlesbrough.

The Newcastle manager, Rund Gullit, is likely to be missing Warren Barton, who has been playing at left-back in re-cent weeks, and Aaron Hughes, who replaced Barton after 51 minutes against Leeds,

The West Ham manager, with the expected return of stick with his mistiring strike-Andy Hunt for the London force of Ian Wright and John Hartson for the bome game against Coveotry, particularly as the Hammers are another side suffering injury headaches.

Redknapp has lost the wingback Marc Keller for several weeks with a hamstring problem. The Coventry goalkeeper Magnus Hedman is expected to return if he has shakeo off the effects of a migraine which meant a recall for the veteran,

Steve Ogrizovic, oo Saturday. Marlon Harewood is likely to return for Nnttingham Forest and replace the suspended Pierre van Hooijdonk at home to Southampton. The Forest manager, Dave Bassett, is hopeful flu victims Jon Olav Hjelde and Scot Gemmill will be able to play, while Southampton are set to be without Matt Le Tissier, who has a calf injury.

The Aston Villa manager John Gregory will he without midfielder Alan Thompson, who is serving a one-match suspension, for their game at home to Sheffield Wednesday and

Mark Draper is set to deputise. Benito Carbone, suspended on Ssturday, will return for Wednesday in place of Ritchie



Stoke's Kyle Lightbourne (left) and Larus Sigurdsson fail to rise above Preston's high flying Sean Gregan and Colin Murdock

Moyes creates united front

MICHAEL JACKSON, the match-winner on a day that was more chiller than thriller, had no sooner revealed that David Moyes "never lets us get away with anything" than the Preston manager himself offered an eerily similar insight into why Alex Ferguson reputedly covets him as as his assistant and possible successor

Moyes, plucked from the playing ranks in January when Preston lay 17th in the Second Division, was asked after a vital win at Stoke how a largely unchanged squad had become promotion contenders. There was no magic formula, be said, but the players had shown greater professionalism by training both mornings and afternoons. Tellingly. he added: "They don't

get away with much." That the grey eminence of Manchester United and the flame-baired Moyes share a Glaswegian brogue and background is a neat coincidence.

Prestoo North End

basis to reports that Ferguson is interested in the 35-year-old former Celtic defender as a replacement for Brian Kidd, it will be because of the accent both men place on discipline and the work ethic as the platform for attacking flair.

For all the talk of getting away with things, Preston's status as the section's leading scorers indicates that Moves prefers to accentuate the positive. Stoke were still adjusting to the conditions when Jackson's header from a corner defence. Their inability to respond as they did at Deepdale, where they won 4-3 after trailing 3-1, prevented the top three clubs from breaking away.

Victory would bave enabled

at Manchester City today, only four ahead. More pertinently, Fulham and Walsall have pushed them from first place to third during a miserable month in which three League matches and an FA Cup tie have failed

to produce a single goal. True, it took a save of breathtaking quality by David Lucas from Peter Thorne's lastminute overhead kick to deny Stoke their first score-draw in 38 games. However, while they were unfortunate that Preston had the gale at their backs at its most ferocious, there can be no doubt that Brian Little's team would benefit from new blood.

Little put Stoke's disapintment in perspective noting that most of their fanswho comprised all but 4,000 of Saturday's biggest crowd outside the Premiership - would have settled after relegation in May for being only a few points

man who paid £7m for Stan Collymore must be allowed to speod for the first time in six. mooths at the club.

Bryan Small, the wing-back wbo was with him at Villa, demonstrated that is still possible to unearth gems at the free-transfer end of the market by twice racing back to execute textbook tackles on opponents who had been sent clear. Yet the fact that a midfielder, Graham Kavanagh, is Stoke's joint top scorer with six goals highlights a weakness which could even see them being squeezed out of the play-off places unless

One felt particularly sorry for Africa and the United States who were welcomed by the public-address announcer before the match. They may not have expected anything to remind them that Stoke and Preof such unrelenting grimness. Not that those who made the less arduous journey back to Lancashire would have shared

that impression. These are exciting times for Preston, who receive Arsenal, the FA Cup holders, in the third round a week tonight. The only cloud on the horizon is the one threatening to blow in from the direction of Old Trafford, In the measibine, Moyes is fending off enquires spirit a straight bat that could open for

Scotland. "I'm very flattered to be linked with a club like that," be said, "but there's been no contact and I don't expect any." Goal: Lickson (7) 0-1.

Preston North End (4-4-2): (scas; Paridi-son, Jackson, Murdock, Ndc; Carwright, Gre-gen, Rankine, Eyres; Byfield (Nogan, 61), Macien (Harris, 89). Substitute not asset:

Appleton.
Referee: G Frankin (Middlesbrough), Bookings: Saoke: Sigurdson. Small: Preston: Gregan, Macken. Cartwright.
Mass of the match: Gregan.

Stoke to open a 10-point lead on off the pace at the halfway ston gave the world Matthews their visitors. Instead, they go stage. But in order to fulfil the and Finney: oeither can they hut no more. If there is any Houllier in hot pursuit of Illgner

be third time lucky wheo they turn their search for a goalkeeper to Real Madrid's German international, Bodo Illener.

Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has been in contact with the 31-year-old's agent about a move to Merseyside and has high hopes of success in attracting Illgner, who has played for Real in the Champions' League this season. His future in Spain was plunged into doubt hy Real's acquisition of Argeotina's Under-21 keeper,

Liverpool, whose No 1, David James, will be out of contract in 18 months' time, failed to lure Illgner's compatriots Jens Lehmann, who joined Borussia Dortmund instead, and Stefan

Albano Bizzarri.

LIVERPOOL ARE hoping it will BY ALAN NIXON

Klos, who has signed for Rangers. Antti Niemi, the Finn who seems to have lost his place to

Klos at Ibrox, has attracted the attention of Sheffield Nottingham Forest have

made a hid for Bolton's Icelandic top-scorer, Arnar Gunnlaugsson. Forest's manager, Dave Bassett, is keen to add the scorer of 14 goals this season

to his shot-shy attack. The Ice- his standing leg, which often lander, valued by Bolton at £5m, was left out of Bolton'a team for the goalless draw against Bradford on Saturday.

Blackburn Rovers are anxiously awaiting fitness reports on Chris Sutton amid fears that the striker may have damaged knee ligameots. Sutton was carried off in agony during the victory over against Aston Villa on Saturday after a shuddering tackle from Ugo Ehiogu. The striker took the impact on

leads to ligament trouble.

Sutton's knee was still sore yesterday and club doctors will inspect the problem this week. hut the luckless forward could he out for weeks.

Brian Kidd, Blackburn's new manager, looked grim after seeing Sutton. He said: "We will have to give it a day or so before we can tell."

long spell, Blackburn will be under pressure to agree terma

If Sutton is ruled out for a

a suspected heart attack oo Christmas Day. He was 60. As a player, the Manchester-

ready sorted out a £4.5m fee.

centre-half, colourful manager

and after-dinner speaker, col-

lapsed and died at his home of

born McGrath served Bury, Southampton, Newcastle United and Brighton as well as winning an England Under-23 cap. He entered management with Port Vale 19 years ago this mooth, appointing John Rudge as his deputy, and later took charge of Chester, Preston and Halifax.

Boltoo and Bradford City tory at Port Vale.

when you don't take maximum points," he said. "It's point. dropped but we hope to come

John Heodrie is demanding more examples of the display his Barnsley side gave in their 1-0 defeat of Stockport. Arjan de Zeeuw's goal sealed the three points and Hendrie. whose team host Queen's Park Rangers today, said: "It wasn't a pretty game to watch - in fact it was terrible - but the main thing is we came away with the victory and a clean sheet. Now we've got to maintain that atti-

Huddersfield kept up their unexpected promotion pusb with a 2-0 defeat of Grimsby and they complete their festive programme of fixtures with a

West Bromwich's up-anddown season continued with a 3-2 victory at home to Port Va and the Baggies' game today is at Crystal Palace, who beat Oxlead in the race for promotion. ford 3-1 at the Manor Ground.

TOMORROW

ALL THE PREMIERSHIP REPORTS AND DETAILS FROM A PACKED HOLIDAY MONDAY SPORTS PROGRAMME

FOOTBALL: See panel, page 21 RUGBY UNION: Jewson National League One (2.30): Liverpool St Helens v Manchester: Reading v Henley (2.15); Rosslyn Park v Camberley: Two North (2.30): Nunearon v Hinckley: Sheffield v Sandal; Stourbridge v Whitchurch; Walsall v Lichfield. Two South (2.30): Bracknell v Havant 2.151: Chilenbom v Metron. v Havant (2.15): Cheltenham v Weston super-Mare: Clifton v Bridgwater, Norti Walsham v Norwich (2.15): Plymouth v Re Walsam v Norwich (2 15): Plymouth v Re-druth. Swalet Cup fourth round Group I: Curmavon v Bedwas (2.30). Weish Na-tional League First Division: Abertulery v Newbridge (2.30). Tements Velvet Bowl first round: Leth Academicals v Hillions (1.30). AIB League Second Di-vision: Dungannon v Malone (2.30). DARTS: Skel PDC World Championship (ot Purliect) (to 3 January)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague All-Star Game: North v South (2 0) (ct RACING (National Hunt unless stated): Kempton (First race 12 40), Chep-(12.35): Leicester (1.05): Wet

TUESDAY FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): FA Carting Premiership: Chelses v Man-chester Utd (6.0): Leeds v Wimbledon, Na-Chester Util (2.0); teets venningson, Na-tionwide Football League First Division: Narwich v Watford, Second Di-vision: Gillingham v Mithrall, Scottish Pre-miler League: Aberdeen v Motherwell; St Johnstone v Dunfermling,

RUGBY UNION: Representative match: Lecester v Barbanans (3.0). Bank of Scotland Border League: Langholm v Sejlyri 17.30]. Peebles v Keise (7.30)

WEDNESDAY

POOTBALL: Scottish Premier League: Dundee Utd v Rangers (7.45): Hearts v Dundee (6.0). RACING: Carlisle (1.0): UNGFIELD (All Weather Flat) (1.10); Stratford (1.20).

THURSDAY RACENG: Catterick (1.0); Fontwell [1.10]; Warwick (12.50)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL: Scottish Premier League RUGBY LEAGUE: Friendly matches Huddersfield v Halifax (3.0), Leeds v Castle ford (3.0): Rochdale v Oldham (3.0). RACING: Lingfield (1.05): Catterick (12.50): Cheltenham (12.30): Exerc (12.40): Letcester (12.45): Plumpton

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): FA Cup third round: Aston Villa v Hull City, Black-burn Rovers v Charlton Achietic, Bolton west Bromwich Albion; Bradford Gity v Grimsby: Birstol Gity v Everton; Bury v Stockport: Cardiff Gity v Yeovil Town; Coventry Gity v Macclesfield Town; Crewe Alexandra v Oxford Utd; Leicester City v Birmingham Gity; Uncoln City v Sunderland; Newcastle v Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest v Portsmouth; Oldham Athletic v Chelsea, Plymouth Argyle v Derby County, Queen's Park Rangers v Hudder-sfield, Potherham v Briscol Rovers, Rushsized. Promeram v siriscol Kovers, rush-den & Damonds v Leeds Utd: Sheffield Urd v Notts County, Southampton v Ful-ham; Southport v Leyron Orien; Swindon v Barnsley, Totterham Hotspur v Walford; Tronmere v Ipswich; West Ham v Swansea;

WEEK'S MAJOR FIXTURES

V Scannoper Second Division: Burnley v Walsaff; Colchester v Luror; Gillingham v Blackpool; Reading v Chester Field; Wycombe v York, Third Division: Brentford v Batnet: Carlisie v Exeter: Chester v Southert Darlington v Rochdale, Hartlepool v Cambridge Utd: Shrewsbury v Hallfax; Torquay v Brighton Football
Conference: Cheltenham v Telford, Dover
v Welling; Hayes v Farnboreugh; Hedneslord v Kettering; Hereford v Kidderminster; Leek v Doncaster, Morecambe v
Northwich: Widnes v Kinestonian, Tenster: Leek v Doncaster: Marecambe v Northwich: Woking v Kingstenian. Tennenzs Seotrish Cup second round: Civil Service v Albion Rovers (1.45): Dalbeatte Star v East Soring (1.20): Forfar v East Fife: Hundy v Peterhead: Inverness Caledonian Thistile v Livingston: Keith v Brechin; Montrose v Siviling Albion: Partick Thistile v Cowdenbeath: Queen of the South v Ross County, Queen's Park v Qachnacuddin: Spartuns v Clyde (2.0): Whitehill Welfare v Sternbousemur (2.0) Vinitehill Welfare v Stenhousemur (2.0) Scottish Premier Leagua: Dundee v Dundee Utd: Dunfermine v Hearts; St Johnstone v Aberdeen, Scottish League First Division: Ayr v Stranraer: Falkirk v Airdre: Morton v St Mirren; Hibernian v

RUGBY LEAGUE: Slik Cut Challenge Cup second round: Egrement v Haydock (1.30): Featherstone Lions v Ovenden (1.30):

HUGEY UNION (3.0 unless stated): Al-lied Dunbar Premiership Ones Glouces-ter y Bath (2.0); London Irish y Newcasde; London Scottish y Harlequins; Sale y Northampton; Saracens y Beeford. Pre-miership Two: Exeter y London Welsh. Fyide y Rugby (2.30); Mosseley y Bristol; Wakefield y Rotherham (2.30); Waterloo y Blackheath (2.15); Worcester y Orrell (2.30). Jewson Nacional League One: Camberley y Reading (2.30); Harrogare y Newbury (2.15); Henley y Otley (2.0); RUGBY UNION (3.0 unless stated): Al-POOTBALL: PA Cup third round: Man-chester Utd v Middlesbruugh (4.0); Port Vale v Liverpool (2.0); Sheffield Wednes-day v Norwich (3.0). Scottish Premier League: Rangers v Ceiric (6.05).

Manchester v Birmingham & Solihuti (2.15); Morley v Lydney, Nortingham v Rosslyn Park; Wharfedale v Liverpool St Helens (2.15). Two North: Hinckley v Stourbridge (2.30); Kendal v Winnington Park (2.15); Lichfield v Aspotra (2.30); Preston Grasshoppers v Nureation (2.15). Sandal v New Brighton (2.15): Sedgley Park v Sheffield (2.30); Whitchurch v Walsall (2.30). Two Souths Brighages v Echan dal v New Brighton (2 15): Sedgley Park v Sheffield (2 30): Whitchurch v Walsall (2.30). Two South: Bridgwater v Esher; Havant v Clirkon (2 30): Metropolitan Police v Barking; Norwich v Plymouth (2 15): Rednuth v Cheltenham (2 30): Tobard v North Walsham (2 15): Weston-super-Mare v Brackneli: Welsh Macional League Premier Division (2 30): Aberavon v Pontypridd: Bridgend v Neath: Lianelli v Caephiliy: Newport v Eebw Vale (5 30). First Division (2 30): Bonymaen v Tredegar, Cross Keys v Pontypool: Massieg v Aberüllery: Mer thyr v Dunwant: Newbridge v Rumney. South Wales Police v Blackwood. Tordu v Preordry; UWIc V Landovery. AIB League Pirst Division (2 30): Clontorf v Ballymena: Cork. Constitution v Blackrock College. Gulwegians v Young Munster: Shannon v Buccaneers: St Mary's v Garryowen: Terenure v Landowne. Second Division (2 30): DLSP v Dungamont Derry v UCC: Greystones v Dolphin; Malone v Skernes; Old Crescent v Old Wesley; Portadown v Baltynakinch: Sunday's Well v Becche Rangers. Wanderers v Old Belvedere Bank of Scotland Border Lengue: Jed-Forest v Gala (2,0); Melrose v Selurk (2,0).

RACING: LINGRELD (All Weather Flat) (1 10); SOUTHWELL (All Weather Flat) 1.0); Ayr (12.20); Newbury (12.45); Ut

SUNDAY

WITH RANGERS' unspectacular victory over St Johnstone on Saturday sustaining their bid to regain the Premier League title, nothing less than a win would have sufficed for Celtic against Dundee last night, and

they did so in convincing tash-

ion, coasting to a 3-0 victory at Dens Park. Phil O'Donnell's shot opened the scoring for Celtic after three minutes and Vidar Riseth added a second nine minutes later, rising unmarked to bead home his first goal for the club since joining from the Austrian side, Linz, three months ago.

Comfortably in control at half-time, Celtic had a Mark Burchill effort ruled out for handball before extending their lead 11 minutes into the second half, Henrik Larsson's powerful downward header was cleared off the line by Dundee's Brian Irvine hut cannooed off the goalkeeper, Robert Douglas, who could only watch as the ball

squirmed over the line.

FOOTBALL BY DAVID MCKINNEY

Celtic discover goal form

At Ibrox on Saturday, it had been left to Sergio Porrini to calm Rangers' nerves with a 71st minute winner. St Johnstone had already missed a penalty, awarded when Colin Hendry handled the ball on the line, and, with the Rangers captain sent off, the visitors forced 11 second-half corners. Despite that victory, Celtic

now have a chance to further close the gap behind Rangers should they win the Old Firm game at Ibrox on 3 January.

Kilmarnock also continued their pursuit of Rangers with a 1-0 win over Hearts. Gary Holt took advantage of a mistake by Gilles Rousset, the Hearts goalkeeper in the 27th minute to score the goal that keeps the Ayrshire side three points behind Rangers, although the Glasgow side have a game in hand.

It was a typical day's work for Bobby Williamson's men who were tight at the back, restricting Hearts to half-chances while relying on the skills of a revi-talised Ian Durrant in midfield.

There is new life at Motherwell, who are making steady improvement under Billy Davies. Their improved form continued as they beat Dundee United 2-0 at Fir Park Crucially, without an away win in the League for over a year, Motherwell's home form has been instrumental in taking them to fifth place, and only twice this season have they lost in front of their own supporters.

While Davies is improving as Motherwell's manager, Paul Heggarty is making a good case for himself to become the oext manager of Aberdeen as the Dons recorded a third-successive win, 2-1 at Dunfermline. Hibernian, the First Division leaders, recorded the best result of the day, a 3-0 win over Ayr United, to give them a six-point

defeat a in searc. may aid his side NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PETER REID, the Sunderland manager, believes his side's

we're not expected to do any-"In fact, there will be more pressure on them because their fans will believe they should beat us quite easily and if they get frustrated we may be able to sneak something.

Portsmouth's troubles were extended on the field as their loss to Ipswich on Saturday made it three defeats in a row and they are just one place and, one point above Oxford, who are

in the relegation zone. Alan Ball was furious with their display and their manager said: "What words do I use? Pathetic, abysmal, gutless and disgraceful all come to mind. We let down our supporters in

every aspect of our play. "Ipswich are a good passand-move team but we were absolutely embarrassing apart from the keeper. If my footbaliers were bricklayers, the bouse they built would far

Second-placed Ipswich visit expected to play despite picking up a knock on the calf.

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NATION

Watford lie third, five points behind Ipswich, following their 1-0 defeat of Bristol City - a game which saw the Hornets manager, Graham Taylor, return to the touchline for the first time since his illness.

Bristol City are one place If the hottom of the table and today they face a derby at Ashton Gate with Swindon, who added to Wolves' woes with a late Iffy Onuora goal to seal a 1-0 win on Saturday.

with Barnsley's Ashley Ward after opening talks faltered. Ward has rejected Blackburn's George Ndah will have a fitpay package but could now be ness test on a hamstring injury offered more. The clubs have alfor Swindon, who are unlikely to risk Ty Gooden even though John McGrath, a rugged

he has recovered from a groin problem. Birmingham are fourth after beating Sheffield United 1-0 thanks to Paul Furlong's penalty and they look set to field a unchanged side at Bury. Treve. Francis, their manager, said: "I'm looking for the same display against Bury that we pro-

duced against Sheffield United. "I can't believe that we only beat United 1-0 as it was a performance that merited a three or four-goal win."

played out a goalless draw at the Reebok Stadium and the Boltoo manager, Colin Todd, is looking for his side to make up ground on the leaders with vic-

You're always disappointed back on Monday."

tude in all our future games."

derby at Sheffield United.

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THAT WAS THE **WEEKEND THAT WAS**



EDITED BY JON CULLEY

GIANFRANCO ZOLA

Rudderless Stevenage in search of new guide

nage Borough were preparing for an FA Cup third-round tie against Swindon that would thrust them into the national spotlight thanks to the fourthround draw pairing them with Kenny Dalglish's Newcastle.

As 1999 approaches, however, the mood at the Conference cluh is snmewhat different. Without a manager following the sacking of last year's hero, Paul Fairclough, Borough are clinging to the tails of the leading clubs despite a chronic inability to

comeback this season than

the one Stafford Rangers

pulled off against Bilston in the

Dr Martens League nn Sat-

urday, this column would like

Midland Division Rangers

made a nightmare start, going

3-0 down in the first 15 minutes,

conceding a bizarre own goal

after their keeper slipped on

the muddy pitch and fell over

a penalty of their own, that re-

mained the score at half-time

and even when Stafford pulled

a goal back four minutes into

the second period, Bilston still

Indeed, when Stafford

grabbed another through Love

with 15 minutes left, it seemed

appeared well in control.

After Rangers had missed

to hear about it.

A YEAR ago this week, Steve-score goals - they have only 26 in 21 games so far - and various storms raging behind the scenes.

The efforts of caretaker manager Noel Blackwell to bring in players - reportedly being hampered by Fairclough's refusal to speak to him - have been dealt a blow by the resignation of the

club's four-man scouting staff. And now the youth coach Malcolm Allen, the former Wales and Newcastle striker, has threatened to quit, unless he gets the manager's job.

Rangers not only equalised

with seven minutes to go but

took the lead 60 seconds later,

Eccleston firing in after Barlow

had forced the ball over the line

And it was not over even

with that flurry of scoring. In

the last four minutes, Mitchell

and Eccleston added two

more goals to turn the 3-0

and 4-3 down to defeat Dover

5-4 in the Conference the

week before, Doncaster

Rovers must have believed

their comeback could not be

topped. But Rovers were level

with 14 minutes to go, where-

as Rangers still trailed with

just seven remaining.

Having recovered from 3-0

deficit into a 6-3 win.

moments earlier.

Stafford make most

stunning comeback

IF THERE has been a hetter a mere consolation. However

The chairman, Victor Green, has said he was in no rush to make an appointment. However, Allen's is only nne of a host of names linked to the job, including the former Tottenham men Gary Mabbutt, Graham Roherts and Chris Waddle.

In the circumstances, Saturday's gnalless draw at home to Rushden and Diamonds was a creditable result, keeping Borough in fourth place in the table, 12 points behind the leaders Kettering but with three games in hand.

at Tranmere. The record-equalling 8-match unbeaten streak

"We'll give it our best shot and hopefully we can finally win a match." **Nnttingham Forest's** captain Steve Chettle, before their 3-0 loss at Old Trafford made 16 games without a win for his side.

KEY NUMBERS

The club-record run of consecutive clean sheets Sunderland failed to equal corresponding fixture last eason deprived them of a

The number of career appearances clocked up by Aston Villa wing-back Alan Wright with Saturday's appearance against his former club Blackburn.

I TOLD YOU SO

Goodison wage hill in cut.

JASON EUELL MICHAEL JOHN ALOISI Coventry City **HORATIO** Derby County **GUSTAVO POYET**

KEVIN GALLACHER LEE BOWYER

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

KEITH GILLESPIE

JONATHAN WOODGATE

Manager of the weekend: David D'Leary – not only organised the stifting of Alan Shearer and Duncan take Leeds Boence to attack, too.

Missing... making it... and mistaken



JOHN OSTER EVERTON

The 20-year-old midfielder, a £1.5m signing from Grimsby in July 1997, made more firstteam starts than any Everton player with 35 appearances last season, yet has been restricted to four this year. and only two of those in the Premiership. He clearly does not have a place in Walter Smith's plans and can expect to be shipped out as the



JAMES BEATTIE SOUTHAMPTON

Some doubted Dave Jones' wisdom in paying £1m for a 20 year old with a handful of seninr games but after moving from Blackburn in the summer the young striker has rapidly settled in at The Dell and has impressed the Southampton manager enough to now command a regular first-team spot.



For such a respected figure as the Scotland and Coventry captain to be likened to an English comedian might be considered the worst insult of all. Unfortunately for Gary, however, there is an unmistakable similarity.



Schmeichel offered £1m-a-year by Danes

PETER SCHMEICHELS Old Peter Storrie by offering 25m Trafford career could end ahead of his proposed end-ofseason retirement date. According to The People, the Danish goalkeeper's form is worrying Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson as he plans his campaign to win the European Cup. He is anxious to land a replacement as soon as possible. Meanwhile, The People says Brondby are ready to offer Schmeichel a

£1m-a-year player-director package to tempt him home hefore the Danish season starts in March. The News of the World re-

ager Harry Redknapp has resigned himself to losing defender Rio Ferdinand hut wants to maximise his value by auctioning him to the highest bidder. Offers above £15m are invited. Meanwhile, Leicester City plan to put annther potential strain on Redknapp's relationship with West Ham chief executive

for striker John Hartson, according to The People. Stnrrie sparked a row when he sold Andrew Impey to Leices-

ter behind Redknapp's back. The News of the World believes Internazinnale want to hring back Paul Ince and sign Jamie Redknapp, too, in a package worth £10m to Liverpool.

The Mail on Sunday says Kenny Dalglish will offer Newcastle at least £15m for Alan Shearer if he succeeds in his attempt to take over at Celtic.

The Express says Paul Warhurst will mave back ports that West Ham mannorth in an £800,000 deal after impressing Colin Todd during a loan spell from Crystal Palace at Bolton.

Roy Keane's decision to take his time over signing a lucrative contract with Manchester United stems from fresh rumours linking United with the Frenchman Zinedine Zidane, reports the News of

THE WEEK AHEAD

Roday: The English game's peculiar taste for festive self-torrure means another full programme of Premiership and Nationwide matches, accompanied by the usual seasonal assortment of kick-off times. Thankfully, all but Lekester against Blackburn (7.45) in the top flight begin at 3pm. Division Dine leaders Sunderland are at home to bortom-placed Crewe, while Wolves will face a new crisis if they fall against ipswirch. Manchester Ciry against 5toke in Division Two will recall better times for both clubs.

Tomorrous More Present state of the Tomorrous More Present state action, featuring Leeds against Wimbledon and the second episode in the Chelsea-Manchester United festive mini-series, with the action switching to Stamford Bridge. Elsewhere, Watford attempt to main-tain their push for the Premiership at Norwich.

tain their push for the Premiership at Norwich.

Modinesdays Scottish Premier League action: Rangers visit Dundee United,

Fridays: Will second-placed kilmamock protest to the Scottish Premier League
about being forced to travel to Motherwell on New Year's Day?

Saturdays: The FA Cup starts for real, with a third round programme featuring Aston Villa against bottom-of-the-Nationwide Hull City, Conference leaders Rushden & Diamonds against Leeds, Chelsea at Oldham and Watford at
Tottenham. Upset potential at Bristol City, who face Everton.

Sundays: These more Con uses, in which Middleshrough so no Old Trafford, Liv-Say: Three more Cup ues, in which Middlesbrough go to Old Trafford, Liv-ol to seasoned glant-killers Port Vale, while Sheffield Wednesday take on a characteristics.

....1 Plymouth3 Brentford.

FA	CARLING	PREMIERSHIP

					Hon	ne				Awa	y			5-game form	
	Pl	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
Chelsea	19	36	+14	6	- 3	0	15	- 5.	- 3-	6.	1	16	. 12	WDDWW	Theory Man Util [H]: 9 Jan Newcotte (16 Jan Covenny [H]: 31 Jan Arsend [A].
Aston Villa	19	36	+10	6	2	7	17	11	4	4	2	12	8	DUWWL	Today Sheff Wed (H): 9 Jan Middlesbrough (18 Jan Everton (H): 30 Jan Newtastle (A).
Man Utd	19	34	+16	7	13		27	12	2	4	2	12	1,1	DDDLW	Thenorrous Cheises (A), 10 Jan West in (1 16 Jan Lekester (A), 30 Jan Charleon (H);
Leeds	19	32	+15	6	2	1	16	3	2	6	2	16	14	LWWLW	Temorrous Wimbledon 6-1: 9 Jan Bleckhum 16Jan Michlesbreugh (h): 30 Jan Southampton
Arsenal	19	32	÷10	6	6	0	15	4	2.	4	3	6	· 7	DDLWW	Today Chariton (A): 9 Jan Liverpool (H): 31 Jan Chelsen (H): 6 Feb West Ham (A)
Middlesbrough	19	30	+7	4	5	1	16	10	3	4	2	15	14	DDWWL	Today Derby (A): 9 Jan Aston Vita (H): 16 Jan Leeds (A), 30 Jan Lexester (H).
West Ham	19	29	1	5	3	1	14	10	3	- 2	5	-8	13	WLLWL	Today Coventry (H): 10 Jan Man Urd 16 Jan Sheff Wed (H): 30 Jan Wimbledon
Wimbledon	19	29	-5	6	3	1	16	10	2	2	5	9	20	WLWWW	Today Leeds (A): 9 Jan Derby (H): 16 Jan Tottesham (A): 30 Jan West Ham (
Liverpool	19-	28	+9	7 4	÷3.	3	17	10	4	43	5	15	13	WLLWW	Today Newcastle (H): 9 Jan Averal (A): 18 Jan Southempton (H): 30 Jan Coventry
Leicester	19	27	+2	5	2	2	14	9	2	4	4	8	11	DWWLW	Today Blackburn (H): 9 Jan Everton (A): 16 Jan Man Utd (H): 30 Jan Micklesbrough (
Derby	19	25	71	2	- - 512	2	8	8	3	5	2	10	.9	WDDDD	Tieday Middlesbough (H): 9 Jan Wirthledon 16 Jan Blackburn (H): 30 Jan Sheff Wed (
Newcastle	19	24	-2	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	4	8	11	WDDWL	Today Liverpool (A): 3 Jan Chelsea (H). 17 Jan Charlton (A): 30 Jan Aston Villa (I
Tottenham	19	24	-5	- 4:-	÷3.	2	15.	15	2	:3:	5	9.	. 14	LWDLD	Yoday Everton (H): 9 Jan Sheff Wed (A), 16 Jan Wintliedon (H); 8 Feb Covency
Everton	19	23	-5	2	6	2	3	5	3	2	4	9	12	WDWLD	Today Tottenham (A): 3 Jan Lekester (H): 18 Jan Aston V&a (A): 30 Jan Noom Forest
Sheff Wed	19	22	. 0	- 5-	- 2-	.3.	13	6	4	∴2	6	·7.	14 ·	IWWIT	Rickey Aston Vita IA): 9 Jan Tottenham (1 16 Jan West Ham IA): 30 Jan Derby IIB.
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FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Doncaster0 Leek Town1
Kettering1 Hednesford0
Kidderminster1 Hereford0
Kingstoolan0 Woking0
Northwich1 Morecambe1
Southport Barrow4
Stevenage Rushden 0
Telford O Cheltenham3
Welling Dover3
Postponed: Famborough v Hayes: For-
est Green v Yeovil.
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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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ston I: Hastings U Crawley ((dodandor) (dodandor) (dodandor) (atter 36m), waterlogged pitch); King's Lymn I Boston Urd 2: Nunearon I Atherstone 0; Tarmworth 3 Halesowen I. Loading positions: 1 Nunearon (P22, Pis50); 2 Bart (19-33): 3 Boston Utd (22-33); https://doi.org/10.1009/j.j. UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Bamber Bridge 4 Lancaster 3; Blyth
Spartans 1 Gateshead 2; Chorley 2 Winsford 2: Frickley 3 Whithty 3; Gainsborough
3 Worksop 1; Hyde 1 StalyOridge 1; Marine 2 Accrington Stanley 0; Runcom 0 Arrincham 3; 3pennymoor 2 Bishop
Auckland 0. Leading positions; 1 Alrincham (P22, Pts39); 2 Gateshead; 3
Bamber Bridge (23-38).
AUSTRALIAN MATIONAL LEAGUE:
South Melbourne 1 Brisbane 0; Adelaide

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: South Melbourne I Brisbane D: Adelaide Gry 5 Adelaide Sharks D: Newcasrie 2 Wollongong 1: Marconi Farrifield 2 Melbourne Knights 1: Carlton 0 Sydney Olympic 0: Sydney Uniced 2 Camberra D: Northern Sprit I Grpstand Falcons 0. Leading positions: 1 South Melbourne (P12, Pts24): 2 Perth (11-23): 3 Marconi Fairfield (11-23). 3.0 unless stated

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A Caesws (r. TNS Llansantfraid 1 Rhayad-er U. Uther matches postposed. Least-leg postcloos: 1 Barry (P15, Pc35); -Cwmbran (15-30); 3 Aberystwyth (15-29). Cumbran (15-30); 3 Abérystwyth (15-29).
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Coleraine 0 Ballymens Utd 1; Crusaders 1 Cliftonville 0; Glenavon 1
Portadown 0 (abandoned after 60min,
storm damage); Linfield 1 Glentoran (P21,
Ps43); 2 Linfield (21-41); 3 Crusaders (2140). First: Division: Distillery 0 Carrick
Rangers 0. Other marches postponed. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Divisions: Shelbourne 2 Derry City 0: Bohemians 1 Shamrock Rovers 1: Dundalk 0 Bray Wanderers 1: University College Dubin 2 St Patrick's Ad-letic 2: Waterford 0 Cork Ciry 2. Post-posadions: 1 Cork Ciry [P18. Pcs42]; 2 St Patrick's (18-39); 3 Finn Harps (17-27).

FOOTBALL RESULTS NATIONWIDE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION FIRST DIVISION Ingham1 Sheff Utd OR0 Bradford

Norwich
ECOND DIVISION
pool1 Wigan1
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n City1 Macclesfield0
81 Bournemouth2
County3 Northampton1

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Denfermiline ...20 2 10 8 16 32 10 PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEASURE TO Pagers Wick Academy 0: Clachnacuddin 5 Fort William 1; Deveronvale 2 Buckle 5: Fortes Mechanics 10 Nairn County 2; Fraserburgh 0 Peterhead 0 jobandoned after 30min, high winds!; Huntly 0 Cove Rangers 1 (abandoned after 45mm. Bootlight failure); Lossemouth 0 Eigh 4; Rothes I Kenth 7; Leading positions: 1 Peterhead (P15,

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: 5r Albans 5 Bishop's Stortford 1. Leading positions: 1 Aylesbury [P19, Pts41); 2 Sutton Utd (19-40); 3 St Albans (19-39).

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

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East Fife20	5	4	10	26	39	2
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Forfar19	2	4	13	19	37	1

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THIRD DIVISION

ISRAELI NATIONAL LEAGUE: 8nei ISRAELI NATIONAL LEAGUE: 8nei Yehuda O Maccabi Fa Awiy 6: Ironi Ashdod 3 Hapoel Haifa 2, Maccabi Perah Tikva 4 Hapoel Beir She'an 0; Ironi Rishon Lezion O Hapoel Petah Tikva 1: Maccabi Haifa 2: Maccabi Haifa 6: Hapoel Jerusalem 1 Maccabi Herilya 0; Hapoel Tel'Aviy 0 Zafmim Holon 0; Hapoel Kfar Sava 2 Betar Jerusalem 3. Leading positions: 1 Hapoel Haifa (P14, Pt335); 2 Maccabi Haifa (14-32); 3 Betar Jerusalem [14-28]

TODAY'S FOOTBALL

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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 9 Barnsley v QPR 10 Bradford City v Tranmer 11 Anstol City v Swindon (12.0) 16 Portsmouth v Oxford Utd 17 Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield . 18 Sunderland v Crewe 19 Wolves v Ipswich (1.0)

SECOND DIVISION **20** Bournemouth v Luton.. 23 Northampton v Fulham 27 Preston v Wresham...... 28 Reading v Notts County . 29 Wigan v Walsall

THIRD DIVISION

43 Forest Green v Hereford . orecambe v Southport. Rushden v Woking Stevenage v Kettering (7.45) Yeovil v Farnborough

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury v Chesham; Basingstoke v Aldershot; Boreham Wood v Bishop's Stortford; Bromley v Gravesend & North-Stortford; Bromley v Gravesend & North-fleet; Carshalton v Sutton Urd [12.0]; Da-genham & Redbridge v Purfleet; Dulwich v Slough; Enfield v St Albans; Harrow Bor-ough v Hendon; Heybridge v Billericay; Wal-ton & Hersham v Hampoon, First Delusious; Berichemsted v Wealdstone, Carwey Island v Braintree [11.30]; Grays Athletic v Romford: Hitchin v Barton Rovers; Leatherhead v Croydon; Maldenhead Utd v Oxford City; Molessy v Whyreleafe; Staines v Chertsey; Uxbridge v Veading; Wembley v Leyton Pennant; Worthing v Bognor Regis. Second Division: Abling-don Town v Hungerford; Barstead v Hor-sham; Barking v Harlow; Bedford Town v Leighton; Brachell v Wolongham; Edgware v Northwood; Hemel Hempstead v Hert-ford Markey. The Medical State of Econ.

Leighton: Bradinell v Wokingham; Edgwere v Northwood; Hernel Hempstead v Hert-ford: Marlow v Thame; Windsor & Eron v

Chalforn St Peter (11.0); Wheenhoe v Mitcham. Taird Division: Aveley v East Thurrock (1.0); Croydon Arthenc v Lewes; Dorking v Epsom & Ewell; Egham v Camberley (11.0); Homchurth v Ford Utd (11.0); Southall v Kingsbury; Tibury v Clapton; Ware v Cheshunt; Wingare & Flintley v Corinthian-Casuals (12.0). ley v Corinthian-Casuals (12.0).

INTIBONO LEAGUE Premier Division:
Accrington Stanley v Bamber Bridge; Altrincham v Manne; Sistiop Auckland v
Guisseley: Emiey v Blyth Spartans;
Gateshead v Runcom; Lancaster v Chorley, Leigh RMI v Spennymoor, Stalybridge v Frickley, Whitby v Gainsborough;
Winsford v Colwyn Bay, Worksop v Hyde.

Harb Pickless Ballery v All tooks (11.0).

Winstord v. Cowyn bay: Worksop v Hybe. First Division: Belper v Ali reton (11.0): Burschugh v Netherfield Kendal: Droyls-den v Ashron: Bastwood Yown v Huckhall (11.0): Farsley Celtic v Radcliffe Borough; Lincoln Utd v Harrogate Yown (1.0): Mat-lock v Fibrton: Stocksbridge PS v Bradford PA, Trafford v Gretna: Whitting Bay v Great Harwood: Witton Albion v Consteton Harwood; Witton Abbon v Congleton.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisios: Atherstone v Bamworth; Boston Utd
v Grantham; Crawley v Cambridge City.
Dorchester v Bath; Gresley Rovers v
Nuneaton (7.30); Halescowen v Sromsgrove; Ilkeston v Burton Albion; Merthy;
Wildermouth; Derbaudi v Klane; Lung Ed. Maymouth; Rothwell v King's Lynn; Sal-xury v Hastings; Worcester v Glouces r. Midland Division: Bedworth v ter: Busians Divinisions Bedworth v Shepshed Dynamo; Bistron v Blatenall; Blowwich v Stafford Rangers; Clevedon v Cinderford: Moor Green v Evesham Urd; Newport [Gwent] v Weston-super-Mare; Paget Rangers v Stourbridge; Racing Warwick v Redditch Urd; Soilhull Borough Surran Codfield VB. Purchus Strapel of Warwick v Redditch Utd; Sollhull Borough v Sutton Codified; V Rugby v Stamlord; Wisbech v Hinckley. Southern Division: Baldock v Raunds; Bashley v Havant & Wa-rerlooville; Chemsford v Fisher: Corby v Brackley; Dartford v Erith & Behredere: Fleet v Andows. Folkestone Invicta v Mar-gate; Sittingbourne v Tonbridge [7, 45]; St Leonards v Ashford, Witney v Chencester.

NSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Prerater Dhiston: Beckenham v Thamesmead (11,30): Chatham v Ramsgate; Greenwich UNDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Hrst Division: Eastbourne Urd v East-bourne Town: Horsham YMCA v Broad-bridge Heath (11.0); Portfield v Selsey: Saltdean v Whitehawk (11.0); Shoreham v Littlehampton (7.45); Wick v East Pres-

ron (11.0).

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE MONTH WESTERM TROMPS LEAGUE PRIST DIVISION: Afterton Collieries v Kildsgrove; Bootle v Salford: Cheadle v Maine Road: Clitheroe v Nantwich; Holk-er Old Boys v Glossop North End [2.0]; Newcastle Town v Mossley; Rossendale v Leek CSOB: Skelmersdale v Atherton LR St Heiens v Prescot Cables; Vauxhali GM v Workington.

NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Arnold v Sheffield; Box-ton v Armthorpe Wellare; Eccleshill v Thackley: Hallam v Ossett Town (12.0) Maltby Welfare v Staveley Welfare: No Fernby v Liversedge; Ossett Albion v Gar-forth; Pickering v Glasshoughton Welfare [12.0]; Selby v Arigg.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE (11.0): Barwell v Stapenhili; Boldmere St Michaels v Chasetown; Kings Norton v Sandwell Borough; Oldbury v West Midlands Police; Pelsall Villa v Rushal Olympic, Rocester v Knypersley Victoria; Shimal v Bridghorth; Sburport Shifts v Halesowen Harners; Stratford v Pershore; Willenhall v Wednesfield.

SMRRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Omagh v Cilitonville, First Divi-sion: Dungannon Swifts v Bangor.

Poyet counts the cost of the Chelsea high life

CHELSEA'S WIN at Southampton By NICK HARRIS on Saturday took them to the top of the table but came at the price of an injury to Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguayan midfielder who scored the second of their two clinically executed goals and was then carried off. night.

It will not be known for a day or two how long the knee injury - inmissed eight months of last season with cruciate ligament damage in ford Bridge tomorrow. the same area of his leg, the knock

was causing concern on Saturday

"We'll miss him if he has to be out because he's on fire at the moflicted by Southampton's debutant ment," Graham Rix, Chelsea's first-French defender, Patrick Colleter - team coach, said. Poyet will be will keep Poyet out, but, as he especially missed if he cannot play against Manchester United at Stam-

"We showed at Old Trafford (in the

record at Stamford Bridge," Rix said, but would not be drawn on the significance of tomorrow's game to both sides' title prospects. "It is a big game," he said, "but, win or lose on Tuesday, it doesn't mean we're going to win or lose the championship."

Whatever Rix's public pronouncements, there can be little doubt that what happens tomorrow will be, if not crucial, then significant in indicating the championship potential of the first and second-placed clubs. Chelsea

United but they've got a very good sailly Roberto di Matteo and Graeme Le Saux (absent on Saturday due to the birth of his daughter on Christmas Day), and their participation can only make a side brimming with quality even stronger.

Saturday's first goal exemplified the class of their mercurial Little and Large pairing, a deft run by the diminutive Gianfranco Zola down the left ending in a cross met by the towering Tore Andre Flo and slotted home with the merest pat of the boot. Bjarne Goldback was a powerful

time Franck Leboeuf took possession he tore forward like a steamroller through a field of matchstick men. If any man in Blue looked a liability it was Ed de Goey in goal, but even his occasional flappings were never likely to be punished by the Saints.

Rix gave notice that his side are not merely a hunch of mercenary foreigners on a lucrative jolly, but a committed unit consisting of in-ternationals on one hand and homegrown youth-programme talent, such as Jody Morris and John Terry,

[Leboeuf] or 17-year-old boy [Terry], they're all pulling in the same direction," he said.

As for Southampton, their visitors on Saturday were just the latest side to have beaten them this season. They now face two vital relegation matches, starting today at fellow strugglers Nottingham Forest, while Chariton will be the next League opposition at The Dell on 9 January.

The signs were not all bad against Chelsea - Matt Le Tissier looked sharp and committed before having

recent 1-1 draw] that we can match hope to welcome back Marcel De creative force in midfield and every on the other. "World Cup winner to leave the field with a califull after 25 minutes, Colleter made an assured debut, and the Moroccan Hassan Kachloul showed potential with several runs - but the time has come to turn potential to points. als: Fio (20) 0-1. Poyet (48) 0-2.

Happiness amid the humbug



John Aloisi, the Coventry City substitute who scored the equalising goal on Saturday, cuts between the Spurs defenders Steve Carr (left) and Luke Young at Highfield Road

BOXING DAY afternoon at Highfield Road struck a festive note with its elements of pantomime but, for much of the time, it was as cheerless as the weather Coventry, a side low on self-belief, met Tottenham. who are slowly rebuilding theirs. The consequence was a 1-1 draw which even George Graham described as

"unattractive", and he should know. Much of the football illustrated the great confidence trick which the Premiership has become. The stands were full, the players drawn from across the globe, national and international media filled the press box. But the Best League in the World? Bah, humbug. The most competitive, maybe, but the mutual commitment was unable to disguise the poor passing and touch, the lack of imagination and poise that characterises so many Premier-

ship games. Watching this after reading, in this paper's Saturday edition, an article about the subjugation of modern sport to commercial interests, and another about goal-laden Boxing



GLENN MOORE

the ghosts of football past more fondly than those of present or future. But, an hour after the match. the spirit was lifted by conversations with two of Saturday's protagonists, Ian Walker and John Aloisi.

Neither players are immune to the head-turning temptations of the modern game. Walker's suit, a thick canary-yellow pinstripe on char-coal hlack, was the sort that gives contemporary footballers a reputation for having more money than sense. Aloisi, meanwhile, priced himself dearly enough when leaving

Portsmouth to dissuade Charlton of being "a vulture", adding: "That's from even meeting him to discuss a possible transfer.

Yet both drew pleasure beyond Saturday's obvious rewards of a useful point and associated bonus monies. For Walker his impressive performance, highlighted by a won-drous save from Steve Froggatt, suggested there was light at the end of a dark tunnel which has seen him suffer family bereavement, illness and unemployment, a loss of his England squad and Tottenham firstteam place, and worrying injury.

For Aloisi, who scored an excellent first Premiership goal just 17 minutes after coming on as a substitute, the afternoon was one of unbridled joy at such a promising

start to his Coventry career The Australian was "stolen" from financially stricken Portsmouth for £650,000, a ridiculous fee for a 22year-old with experience in Belgium and Italy but one, said Gordon Strachan, which counterbalanced the club's loss on Dion Dublin's sale. As if to emphasise the modern dog-eat-dog ethos, Strachan spoke

the football business."

Aloisi spoke sympathetically of Pompey's plight but, like his new manager, had to deal in realities. which meant Coventry's own struggles after six matches without a win and Aloisi's step up in class.

He said: "Goals are goals at any level and if you get a chance you put it away, but there won't be so many chances at this level and no striker takes them all. It's not going to be easy and I'll need time to settle, but it is important I continue to believe in my ability."

Walker also dwelt on the subject of confidence. "It has been a depressing time and I'll be glad to see the back of 1998," he said. As well as being dropped and injured Walker's mother died, his wife had a difficult childbirth and his father

was sacked by Norwich. He added: "You try not to let things affect you but it is difficult for anyone to live through it all and keep their mind on work. Maybe having a hreak from the team did me good. You can't go through all that and not come out a stronger person. I'm mer England goalkeeper Ray. This pleased with the way things are going now and it's up to me to keep working hard. There's always someone after your place and I've still got a lot to learn but I should he com-

ing into my prime now." The 27 year old's save from Froggatt shortly before the hour looked to be enough to ensure Sol Campbell's goal, poked in from Darren Anderton's corner, would be a winner. This had followed the panto opening in which Magnus Hedman, Covectry's goalkeeper, was hurt in the warm-up, a linesmen was carried off injured after 12 minutes and team-mates Gary McAllister and Darren Huckerby laid each other out

in a mid-pitch collision after 15. Spurs' industry, epitemised by Anderton (who clearly does not want to be banished to the wing when Steffen Freund arrives), looked to be enough. Then Aloisi was introduced and soon took a pass from George Boateng, turned two defenders and sent a fierce drive past Walker.

Spurs' response was to bring on Stephen Clemence, the son of the forprovided a historical footnote. Four minutes earlier Coventry had summoned Sam Shilton, son of Peter, from the bench. Clemence senior, who attended on England scouting duty and would have noted Walker's form, confirmed it was the first time his son and that of his great rival had been in opposition. "Who would have believed back then that they would

do so as midfielders," he said. After the rejuvenation felt by Walker, and a dream realised for Aloisi, this tale of the unexpected showed there was substance and interest to Saturday's game. Like the silver in the Christmas pudding, you just had to look hard to find it.

just had to look hard to find it.
Goats: Campbell (19) 0-1; Aloisi (82) 1-1.
Coventry City 14-4-2): Ogrizonc: Nilsson.
Williams (Breen. 61). Shaw, Edworthy (Aloisi, 65):
Boaseng, Solvedt, McAlfster, Froggatt; Huckerby
(Shilton, 76). Whelan, Substitutes not useful
Teffer, Kirkland (gk).
Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr,
Young, Campbell, Sinton; Fox. Anderton, Nielsen.
Gonola (Clemence, 82): Armstrong, Ferdinand
(Iversen, 88). Substitutes not asset: Calderwood, Edinburgh, Baardsen (gk).
Referee: K Burge (Tonypandy). Bookings:
Coventry: Boareng, Froggatt; Tottenham: Sinton.

ton. Man of the match: Anderson. Retendance: 23,098.

the far corner.

Gullit absent habit

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United Leeds United

IF RUUD GULLIT wore a haunted expression heneath those dreaded locks on Boxing Day evening, it was hardly surprising. The ghost of his Christmas past had, after all, reared its bearded head

Twelve months ago a Chelsea shareholder was questioning the value of employing "an absentee landlord" as the manager at Stamford Bridge. Not long afterwards, Ken Bates decided that Guilit should

become a permanent absentee.
On Saturday, the day he introduced a £23m striking partnership to the Premiership, Gullit found himself on the defensive, justifying what one shareholder described at Newcastle United's annual general meeting last Monday as his "semidetached" style of management. At the time Newcastle's Dutch manager was in a flat rather than a semi: in the Amsterdam appartment he shares with his girlfriend, Estelle

In the cramped hut cosy press room at St James' Park, Gullit did not deny that he was semi-detached or even a Dutch hungalow of a boss. He simply pointed to the less-thanideally placed bomes of others on the football management map.

"Kevin Keegan lives up here and works in London," he said, "and Bryan Robson works in Middleshrough and lives in Manchester. Nobody mentions this. I ask myself: Why is there a difference'?"

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Brian Kidd always prepared the team at Manchester United. Alex Ferguson never took the training, as far as I know. I prepare the team here and I do the training. I have to ask the question: Why have a go at me?' I think it is out of order. But I

have big shoulders. I will go forward." Gullit goes on to Anfield today, and with bope rather than conviction in his heart. Fortunate to beat a belowpar Leicester City the previous week, his Newcastle team took an-

other backward step on Saturday. Even with Duncan Ferguson ranged alongside Alan Shearer in attack for the first time, they failed to inflict any damage on a Leeds de-fence missing Lucas Radebe, Robert Molenaar and Martin Hiden. It was an indictment of a team boasting such a high priced front two that Gullit was left lamenting: "If we had played another hour we would not have scored."

That was not entirely fair. In the last ten minutes Nikos Dabizas was denied by the brilliance of Nigel Martyn and a Ferguson header was nodded off the goal-line by David Hopkin. But Newcastle were guilty of failing to open a supply line to their two target men.

Stephen Glass was well shackled by Alf-Inge Haaland on the left and George Georgiadis was like a Greek in a china-plate shop on the right. Gullit had, of course, hoped to unveil Ibrahim Ba on Saturday but he has now turned his attention closer to home (to Newcastle United's home, that is) in search of someone who can help the Magpies spread their wings. Steve Stone, born and hred latched on to in the 33rd minute be-

wanted wide-boys.
Defensive assistance would have been useful, however, on Saturday as Harry Kewell, Lee Bowyer and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink took advantage of some ponderous play at the back to pinch three points for a Leeds team better organised but never truly dominant.

"The sexy football hasn't come yet," David O'Leary acknowledged. "hut we're a young side that can go places over the next few years." With that, the Leeds manager went off to the place he happily calls home: his

gatts;
Goals: Krwell (37) 0-1; Bowyer (61) 0-2; Hasselbank (80) 0-3

Newcastle United (4-4-2); Given; Charver, Dablas, Hower, Barron (Hughes, 51); Georgiads (Ketsbat), 621, Lee, Speed, Glass, Ferguson, Shearer Substitutes not used: Solano, Hamann, Harper (gk).

er (gr.). Leeds United (4-4-2); Martyn; Halle, Wetherall, Woodgate, Harte; Haaland, Bowyer, Hopkin, Rib-eko [McPhail, 57); Kewell, Hassettalink, Substi-tutes not esed: Wijnhard, Gramville, Smith, Robinson (sch.). Referees G Willard (Worthing) Bookings: Note Man of the match: Marryn. Attendance: 36,783

Di Canio casts a shadow

CRISIS AT Christmas? The word BY STEVE TONGUE may be over-used, but the dictionary definition "time of acute difficulty accurately describes Charlton Athletic's plight. Three draws followed by six defeats mean that the Premiership's unlikeliest contestants have plummeted from the top 10 to

the bottom three in eight weeks. Having now met every other team once, and been well beaten by only three of them (Manchester United, Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday), there would have been a useful psychological advantage in completing the first half of the assault course without once dropping into the icy

water of the relegation zone. They were pushed there on Saturday by a combination of Blackburn's victory over the League leaders and - more painfully - the fine equalising goal by Coventry's John Aloisi, a player Charlton appeared to be first in line to sign. At Wimbledon they were so short of forwards that Steve Jones had to forage for himself and, when attacking reinforcements were necessary in the second half, the choice offered by the substitutes' bench comprised two little midfielders, a teenage full-back and a centre-balf.

Wimbledon Chariton Athletic

Charlton in free fall

More worrying than all this for 7,000 visiting supporters at Selhurst Park was that for probably the first time, Charlton did not look like a Premiership side. Their manager, Alan Curbishley, put that down to athitude rather than ability and therefore chose to castigate his charges in public. "The players have caused their own problems," he said. "I've got no sympathy for them, because they threw the points away. The game was there for the taking."

That was not intended to be disrespectful to Wimbledon, whose defiance of the odds has kept them playing at the highest level ever since they first ascended there. alongside Charlton, in 1986. Notable lack of animosity between the two sets of supporters in a 19,000 crowd suggested a recognition of kindred spirits, and Wimbledon's manager, Joe Kinnear, offered a clue or two about what the Addicks needed to survive the season.

We wanted it a bit more than they did," he said of a game of few chances. "You've got to get your players motivated to win your

matches. I've got that at my club." On Saturday, they were not at their best, but did not need to be to consolidate eighth place in the table and extend a record of only one home defeat all season. Three good goals were scored, the decisive one by the excellent Michael Hughes. The Northern Ireland international needs a hernia operation and sometimes spends four hours a day on the treatment table; he may or may not be able to manage anoth-

er game at Leeds tomorrow. Chariton have the little matter of a visit this afternoon from the champions, Arsenal, to contend with, after which Curbishley will again contemplate the financial war-chest the club has built up. Prudent or not, the increasing danger is that the war will be over before he has spent any of it. Goshs: Redfearn (29) 0-1; Euell (32) 1-1; M. Hughes (50) 2-1.

hbleden (4-4-2), Sullivan, Cunningham, Perry, owell (Kimble, h-t), Thutcher, Andley (Cort, 80), L core In Hughes, Lesburn, Gayle, Subschauss steel: Photon (Kernedy, Bakke (gh.) /toon Atlaheste (4-4-1-1)-lite; Mills (Parkes, 82), s. Tier, Powell: Neutron (Yuses, 71), Broom, Ko-Robinson; Redicarre; Siones Sabschizman nor it K Jones, Konchesky, Royce (gh), wast (8-8-bro /Tripu). Robinson; Wimbledon; ee: G Barber (Tring). Bookings: Wimbledon ter, Hughes, Sullnen, Charleon Rodicarm.

THE POST-MATCH press conference was barely five minutes old before the name came up of the man who had taken no part in this game but who was uppermost in everyone's thoughts.

Paolo di Canio was playing truant in Italy rather than football in South Yorkshire on the day he was due to return to Wednesday's side at the end of his suspension, but he still managed to cast a long shadow over Hillsborough

Before the game, Wednesday suspended their errant striker for a further two weeks without pay, and all through it they revealed how desperately they need him back-at any

"We lack strength in depth," admitted their manager, Danny Wilson, who was also without Benito Carbone, serving a one-match suspension for the verbal, rather than physical, abuse of a referee.

Whether we get Paolo back is up to him," Wilson said. "We need quality players but there is a serious doubt about whether he is committed to the club. At the moment I am more interested in the rest of the players in my squad, who are prepared to turn out and play for us."

BY PHIL ANDREWS Sheffield Wednesday Leicester City

Unfortunately for him, without the flair of their two Italians Wednesday look a very ordinary side, whose lack of ingenuity and firepower was underlined by the fact that the Leices-

ter goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, went through the match without having to make one serious save. A couple of miscues by Petter Rudi and Niclas Alexandersson, one of which went wide and the other over the bar, were about all they had to show for their patient hut large-

ly ineffective approach work. Wilson's opposite number, Martin O'Neill, struggles along on even thinner resources, yet his own striking partnership of Emile Heskey and Tony Cottee offers a hlend of youth and experience, power and subtlety that shows the domestic product can still be as effective as any fancy

continental imports. in the Boxing Day hunt for goals they could have bagged a brace apiece, though a single moment of precision finishing from Cottee was

Hinchcliffe is usually the one reliable cog in a sometimes wayward Wednesday rearguard, but it was his weak hack-header that Cottee fore directing the half-chance across the face of Pavel Smicek's goal into

"It was hardly a chance at all," O'Neill said afterwards. "It was a terrific goal." Yet it was scant reward for a determined Leicester performance underpinned by the solidity of their back four and revolving round the creativity of their hyperactive midfield playmaker, Neil Lennon, and the reliable supply lines offered by wingers Steve Guppy and Andy Impey.

"We are sometimes allowed more space playing away from home and fully-detached residence in Harrowe exploited it well," O'Neill said. Gost: Cotree (33) 0-1.

Sheffield Wedoesday (4:4:2): Srincek: Attenton Thome, Walles, Hindickite: Alexandersson (B. Jacob 68), Josk, Stefanoak, Rud: Booth, Humphreys (Mar-rison, 67): Substantes net used: Magitton, Syn-ner, Pressman (gk). ner, Fressman (gal.)
Leicester Gity (4:4.2) Kelter, Sinclar, Elikott, Walsh,
Ullathorne, Impey (Savage, 81). Lennon Izzer
(Taggart, 90), Guppr, Heskey, Coltree Substitutes
net issed: Marshall, Arphevod (gk). Zagonales,
Referene: M. Reed (Birmingham). Biochtings:
Widdnesday: Booth, Stefanand. Laicester: Coltree,
Westbereder.

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Happiness is

a clean sheet

for Ferguson

Kidd's crusade on course

Aston Villa

IOHN GREGORY pleaded an obvious miscarriage of justice with suitable vehemence, calling for the use of television evidence to assist rather than condemn match officials.

The cameras in this case confirmed Aston Villa's goalkeeper, Michael Oakes, released the ball before he strayed outside his penalty area and that he was wrongly dismissed by the referee Dermot Gallagher who felt be was left with no other felt be was left with no our course of action after a linesman indicated the offence.

It is an untimely predicament for Gallagher as he endeavours to satisfy the authorities he is up to the job, following his suspension last season for being too lenient with Arsenal's Steve Bould. He must surely rescind this expulsion and spare Oakes a suspension. As Gregory ruefully ack-

nowledged, the points cannot be

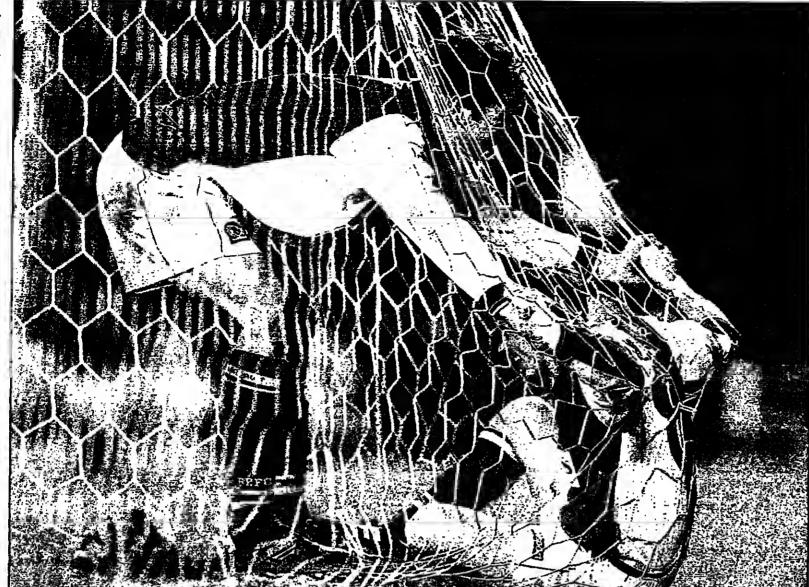
reclaimed. He concluded the 54th-minute incident cost his ream the match. This contention, however, does not necsarily stand up to closer butiny. The facts are that Villa were trailing 1-0 when Oakes departed and would have been much further adrift but for the outstanding efforts of their keeper. Only at that juncture and, fired by the challenge of defying the odds. did they exert the kind of pressure

An equaliser, from the unlikely source of Riccardo Scimeca, rewarded their passionate retaliation, only for Tim Sherwood to inflict a final, fatal wound and compound Gregory's outrage.

required of aspiring champions.

The greater damage was sustained in the first half, when ackburn were much the Keith Gillespie, making his home debut, and Jason Wilcox provided venom from the flanks, Sherwood and Billy McKinlay persistent support from the heart of the midfield.

Chris Sutton's very presence up front has a galvanising effect on the team and intimidates the opposition, while at the back Stephane Henchoz's commanding influeoce is onually significant.



Tangled up in blue and white: Chris Sutton (left) and Kevin Gallacher celebrate Blackburn's first goal against Aston Villa

The sum total of these components proved too weighty for Villa, who relied on the agility of Oakes to keep them in the contest with stirring saves from Sutton, Gillespie, especially, and Wilcox.

Villa, reverting to a familiar formation and preferring Julian Joachim to Stan Collymore alongside Dion Dublin, responded with an effort from Lee Hendrie, which was comfortably fielded by John Filan, in the Blackburn goal

Even Oakes was powerless to frustrate Blackburn in the 44th minute, when Sutton and Sherwood won headers hefore Kevin Gallacher, called up only after Nathan Blake cried off, threw himself at the ball to score the opening goal.

It was Villa's misfortune to meet a Blackburn side revived. reunited and seemingly reinvented by Brian Kidd, Theirs is a crusade for salvation and the signs are they will be fulfilled. Injuries to Henchoz and

Sutton drained much of the self-belief from Blackburn's play in the second haif, and they were anxiously looking over their shoulders long before the finishing line.

Alan Thompson, a player of considerable vision and fine touch as well as a fabled left foot, might have equalised and ultimately plundered a winner. Collymore, bristling with vigour

and personal indignation, offered cunning collusion.

All too late. Gregory will know his team must produce consistent control and conviction if they are to remain championship contenders. Events in this vibrant match encapsulated Villa's recent form. They are toiling to salvage points and crumbs of comfort.

Gregory, defeated only five times as Villa's manager, did concede: "We have set standards for ourselves that are difficult to maintain." That reality will concern him

far more than the transparent

and transient injustice of Ewood Park. The unique demands of the English game give both managers fresh problems and emotions to wrestle with today, Villa playing bost to Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn visiting Leicester City.

Grateful as he was for the points on Saturday evening, Kidd was already cootemplating his club's next engagement with trepidation.

"I don't know what kind of side I'm going to he able to put out," Kidd said, "The injuries are a real problem. It's crazy in our Premiership, the number of games we play over the holiday. They laugh at us ahroad. They're all having a rest on the Continent.

"It's not only the problems

we've got here. I'm talking about the problems for all our chubs. It's even more difficult for successful clubs. They really

And yet it is matches such as this that have us crying out for

Gallacher (1-0) 44; Scimeca (1-1) B1; Sherwood (2-1) 87. Blackburn Rowers (4-4-2): Filan; Kenno, Henchor (Broomes, h-t). Oaily, Davidson: Gillespie, Sherwood, McKimlay, Wilcon Sutton (Davies, 65), Gallacher (Dulf, 73). Substitutes not used: Johnson, Fetts

m VIIIa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehrogu, hgaze, Scimeca: Watson, Hendric hel, gk. 55), Taylor (Collymore, 69), ngson, Wright Dublin, Joachim, Sub-rices not used: Charles, Oraper.

ONE MANAGER spoke earnestly BY GUY HODGSON

of needing confidence, of maintaining a few clean sheets to put mortar between stone in the defensive positions. A worrying sequence of failure had been

Who? Not Dave Bassett Nottingham Forest's position has gone beyond expressions of concern and now demands outpourings of optimism - but Alex Ferguson. The Manchester United manager wanted this result like his visiting counterpart requires a near miracle to stop his team dropping back into the First Division.

Which puts need in perspective. Ferguson's sights are on a fifth Premiership title in seven seasons, not to mention the European Cup, and the chaotic defending of recent weeks had put the first ambition in jeopardy and hardly inspired belief in the second. The "nil" in the visiting column was appreciated as much as the three" in the bome.

It was a November, before Peter Schmeichel's announcement that he is to leave United. since they last achieved that. "They are not bad defenders," Ferguson said, "they have been careless at times, but they defended sensibly today. If we get a few more clean sheets, confidence will come back."

For 25 minutes it was not only the home defence who looked bereft. Ryan Giggs could not have found a roast spud in his Christmas dinner, David Beckham looked disorieotated and Nicky Butt was expending loads of energy to little effect. A fullstrength Forest could have taken them, a team weakened hy injury and suspension could only hope for a hicky punch.

Any bope of that evaporated after 27 minutes. Beckham crossed and fortunately found Giggs' head rather than his errant feet, and when Dave Beasant tipped the effort round the post the resultant corner arced straight to Ronny Johnsen, who headed emphatically down and in.

The effect was dramatic. A weight was lifted from United and it was a surprise that the

Manchester United Nottingham Forest

second goal took so long to come. The source was eyebrowraising too, giveo the way United's centre-hacks have been working together recently. hut when Henning Berg won a header in the Forest area Johnsen swivelled before volleying immaculately.

At that point, as Bassett put "the party was on" and United's third goal was glorious. Teddy Sheringham passed inside to Beckham, whose firsttime touch was such a plumped and sumptuous cushion it would have won the admiration of a master upholsterer. Giggs could luxuriate in it, delicately chipping the advancing Beasant.

The contest was over and Forest had to come to terms with equalling their own Premiershipworst run of 16 successive matches without a victory. "Forget how it affects me," Bassett said, "think bow it affects the players. Some of them were part of the record last time."

It was difficult not to feel sorry for Bassett, who had to give Chris Doig, a 17-year-old centre-back, his debut hecause his resources were so stretched. Compare that to United, who could call up Johnsen and Berg for the absent Gary Neville and Jaap Stam.

There were calls for Bassett's removal from the Forest fans during the match, which is barsh considering be came back from boliday last summer to find his board had managed to mislay 55 goals-worth of strikers while he was away. Optimism is the last resource. and even that might run out.

Goals: Johnsen (27) 1-0; Johnsen (59) 2-0.

Gggs (61) 3-0.

Manches A defeat by Southampton today

Arsenal's hit and miss affair

IT WAS exactly what we should have expected at this time of year from the Premiership's most traditional club as Arsenal paid tribute to a faithful servant and indulged themselves to wasteful excess. As is also cus-

. ____ bion the day after Christ-nas they were given the chance o feast on ham - West Ham, hat is - hut, while Arsenal vere presented with the game in a plate, they merely picked it their hapless opponents in a natch which should bave been on by half a dozen goals.

Arsenal's wonderful firstalf display provided a snapbot of Arsène Wenger's vision f the future. The thrust of neir attack was driven by the owerful link play of Patrick ieira and Emmanuel Petit. hasa' of whom Dennis Bergworried away at the West cy was symbolised by the deci-

Scale draws (D): NONE.

5 Score drews

West Ham United

a cruel mismatch of attacking prowess and defensive unfamiliarity.

A 1-0 interval lead was poor return indeed after Overmars' right-footed shot beat an inattentive Hislop at the near-post with only seven minutes gone. Bergkamp, Ray Parlour, Lee Dixon and Nicolas Anelka all had chances as Arsenal had 21 attempts on goal in the opening 45 minutes. Arsenal's profliga-

BY PETER CONCHIE

Ham defence with a series of diagonal runs towards Shaka Hislop's far post. Marc Overmars, meanwhile, gave Trevor Sinclair a seasonal roasting on the left-hand side in what was

tute, Christopher Wreh, who was replaced by Giles Grimandi in the second half.

The return of Ian Wright to Highbury for the first time since his transfer to West Ham turned out to be a side-show. Arsenal's record goalscorer looked about to take a lap of honour before kick-off as he applauded the generous volume of chants and cheers from the Highbury crowd.

Ham equaliser.

sion to substitute their substi- ionship aspirations, "We have HALFWAY THROUGH the sea- BY SCOTT BARNES

ment the extraordinary attack-

This, as it turned out, was the highpoint of a miserable afternoon in which his most significant contribution was to nick the ball off the toe of Eyal Berkovic in the last minute to inadvertently prevent a West

"Things are not in our hands," Wenger commented afterwards on his team's champ-

only won two [consecutive] games. We have to be realistic and our chances are very, very small." Weoger's disingenvousness was perhaps overplayed, hut his team will be brittle title contenders without a consistent striker to comple-

ing talents of Overmars and Bergkamp, especially as Anelka's ankle injury could keep him out for up to three weeks. Goats: Overmars (?) 1-0.

Arsenal (4-4-2) Manninger: Vivas, Neovin.
Boold, Octor: Petic. Vieira, Parfour. Overmars, Anelka (Wirch, 30; Grimandi. 76).
Bergkamp Substitutes and used: Winterburn. Boa Morte, Lukic (gk).

West Ham United (3-5-2) Histop: Pearce. Ferdinand. Potts: Keller (Lazaridis. 64). Lomas, Berkovic, Lampard, Sindair; Hart-son, Wright Substitutes set used: Breacker, Omoyimni. Margas, Fornest (gk).

Raferee: Plones (Loughborough), Bookings: Arsenal Vivos West Hara Kellet Lazarida Attendance: 38,098.

son, the Liverpool manager, Gérard Houllier, believes his charges have finally turned the

"We have a lot of work to do hut we are going up." he said, after his side became the first to win at Middlesbrough in 14 months. He singled out his five-man midfield, who threw a shield in froot of his three defenders to protect them both from the supply to Middlesbrough's rampaging forwards and from themselves.

For while Paul Gascoigne was pushed backwards into less harmful areas and the tireless runs of Andy Townsend were curtailed, Liverpool's back line looked far from composed. Even given the gale, David James' kicking was poor, Phil Babb looked calamitously

Liverpool give Houllier hope

Middlesbrough Liverpool

uncomfortable under high balls with Hamilton Ricard and Brian Deane behaving like hulls in china sbops, and even Steve Staunton passed the simplest of halls straight to a red shirt - of Middlesbrough.

The bome side's best moments came from Liverpool's unconventional defending. Their goal came when Deane outjumped Babb and outwitted James: Middlesbrough's closest effort was Babb's stooping header in front of James, who was expecting to gather Townsend's cross, and Ricard's clearest opening came courtesy of a strange back-header from Paul Ince.

Still, Liverpool did cahn down after half-time, largely because their revolving forward line began to take the game to a defence that had lost its lynchpin. "Gary Pallister had a fitness

test before the game on his ankle and was feeling it after 10 minutes, when maybe he should have come off," Robson said. Pallister had first lost Ince, who set up Liverpool's first for Carragher, and then, unsettled by Michael Owen, back-passed for Mark Schwarzer to pick up and concede the free-kick that Jamie Redknapp blasted home for his side's second.

With Pallister substituted at half-time, it was Karlheinz Riedle's appearance on the hour in place of Robbie Fowler that sealed the game. Until then, Middlesbrough had a bope that a goalmouth gift

would come their way but, with Riedle commanding the ball at the other end of the field, James and Co relaxed.

Steve McManaman replaced Owen for 15 minutes of free flowing football and back-heels. before Vegard Heggem danced downfield past three dispirited defenders and looped the ball over Schwarzer in the 89th minute.

Goals; Carragher (17) 0-1, Deane (33) 1-1, Redknapp (35) 1-2, Heggem (89) 1-3.

1-5. Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer, Cooper, Vickers, Pallister [Fleming, n-t]; Festa, Maddlson (Stamp, 72). Gascoigne, Townsend [Beck, 78). Goldon: Deane, Roard, Substitutes not used: Moore: Beresford (gk).

Urerpool [3-5-2] James: Carragher, Staunton, Babb; Heggen, Redknapp [Hark-ness, 90], Ince, Berger, Bjornebye, Fowler (Redie, 58), Owen [McManaman, 76], Sub-Referee: G Poll (Ting) Bookings: Middlestrough: Gascogne, Festa, Cooper Liverpool: Babb, Bjornebye, Riedle

Game Results 26/12/98.

Thia Saturday there ware 10 scora drawa:

'Matchmake	Adjudicated R	leauits for postpo	ned matches
RNET	V PLYMOUTH	STENH'MUIR	V E. STIRLING
YORK	V BURNLEY	G'CK MORTON	A CTAOEBWK
WALSALL	V WYCOMBE	AIRDRIE	V RAITH
SLACKFOOL	V WIGAN	ROCHOALE	V CARLISLE
COVENTRY	V TOTTENHAM	LEYTON O.	V SWANSEA

Home was 141: ARISTOL ROVERS, ALLOA, ARECHIN, OUMBARTON. Away with (1), ARBROATH, No score draws (0): NONE.

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Smiths find no answers blowing in the wind

THE GALE not withstanding, this was a match veering off course and heading for the rocks. Apart from one deflected, wind-assisted shot that almost embarrassed Mart Poom in the Derby goal, Everton did not look remotely like scoring. But then they had failed to do so in six of their nine bome matches before this one. attract an audience of more than 39,000 is a mystery.

Derby must have regretted not being more adventurous. Then again, there were extenuating circumstances behind Jim Smith's decision to give the wing-back Rory Delap the job of partnering Paulo Wanchope in attack. Francesco Baiano is injured, Dean Burton on loan to had announced he was in no state of mind to play a few hours before kick-off.

This followed reports in the morning papers suggesting he was ahout to join Sheffield Wednesday or Nottingham Forest, neither of which, Smith said, had any substance.

As a consequence, the 25year-old striker was confined to the substitutes' hench. BY JON CULLEY

Derby County

However, following an injury to Delap, who limped off before half-time with suspected ligament damage, Sturridge is almost certain to return against Middleshrough today. "He'll Quite how they managed to have to," Smith said. "We haven't got anyone else."

In the longer term Sturridge's future looks less certain. Smith is clearly annoyed with his behaviour and appears willing to let him go, even though his value is falling. Had Sturridge's form not nosedived - he has only four goals this season - he might have been sold for serious money but Smith, it Barnsley and Dean Sturridge appears, will not stand in his way even at a reduced fee.

> Asked if he wanted to keep his erstwhile leading scorer, Smith made his feelings plain. "If he feels like that [ready to leave), maybe we will have to do something about it," be said.

Even without Sturridge,

have brought a goal. First, the Costa Rican's control let him down when the busy Stefano Eranio sent him clear, then be blazed into the crowd after Thomas Myhre, failing to hold a fierce free-kick from Horatio Carbonari, had ohligingly dropped the ball at his feet.

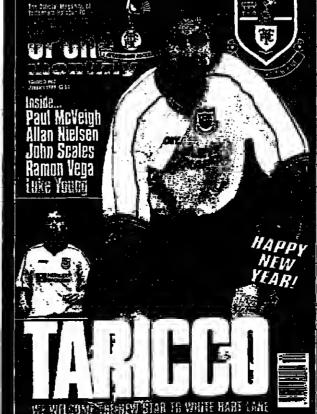
Even so, it was better than anything Everton achieved, which must worry their manager Walter Smith. With the exception, perhaps, of the injured Joe Parkinson, this was his best available XL and there is no money for reinforcements. "We have been goalless in far

too many home games this season," he said. stating the obvious. "I'm not sure what the answer is, but I will have to find it within my current squad." Everton (3-4-1-2): Myhre, Bilk, Materazzi, Ursworth; Dunne, Dacourt, Collins (Branch, 85), Ball: Hutchison, Cadamarteri (Barmby, 70), Bakayoko, Substitutes not used: Short, Grant, Simpare (51)

Derby County (3-5-2): Poom: Prior, Carbonari, Effort: Kozluk, Carsley, Eranio, Powell, Laursen (Humt. 76): Delap (Harper, hd., Wandhope, Substitutes not used: Sturridge, Bridge-Wilkinson, Hoult

Referee: 5 Lodge (Barnsiey). Bookings: Everton: Unsworth, Mytre, Materazzi. Derby: Elliott. Carsley, Delap. Derby could - perhaps should - have left Goodison with three points. Twice during their best Man of the match: Carbonari. spell in the first half, better Attendance: 39 706

Want to know

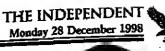


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FRANCE GOES FOOTBALL CRAZY P15 • STRIKIING PROBLEMS AT ARSENAL P20

Six-pointer a fight for survival

HORSES WOULD not he allowed to do it but, what the hell. they are only footballers worth BY GUY HODGSON millions of pounds so today, for the second time in 48 hours, most of the country's teams will

No wonder, as Brian Kidd points out, "the rest of Europe laughs at us".

Madness it may be, but you can hardly fault the soundness of the quality. Eight Premiership matches go ahead today and although the jewel in the programme, Chelsea versus Manchester United will have to wait until tomorrow, the second, fourth, fifth and sixth teams will

be straining muscles to the scrapping for survival at the other end of the table.

Southampton, three suc-Nottingham Forest who are demned one game away from breaking their own Premiership record of 16 matches without a win, at the City Ground with both sensing hopelessness for the van-

lose," Dave Jones, the Saints manager said, echoing his opposite number and, with Charl-As six points is the spread ton facing a resurgent Arsenal covering the top half dozen at the Valley and Coventry playclubs, all their matches carry a ing away at West Ham, the

glers beckons the winners.

The shades of spring 1997 have been drawn by Dave Bassix-pointer will not involve any sett, the Forest manager, who of the elite but two teams can remember a 3-1 defeat that went a long way to spreading gloom in Nottingham and joy in Southampton once the hlade cesses in 19 matches, meet had come down on the con-

> "We're going to be edgy, Southampton are going to be edgy," Bassett said. "Who knows what will happen?

"We are cutting each other'a throats. We don't dislike each "Neither of us can afford to other, Dave Jones is a really nice fella, hut we're both competitive and neither of us wants to be in the bottom three at the end of the season."

If there was a sadder and more predictable sound than es on the nose at various heavy significance but the real prospect of making real the thousandth playing of times," Gregory said in the

est supporters chanting "Bas- shown the characteristics to sett out" at Old Trafford.

"I don't like it, but I underatand it," Bassett, who has laboured under the disadvantage of having to use a squad weaker than the one be was promoted with, said. "They have had a pop at everyone else

Forest's chances? "I'm always optimistic. 1 always believe 1 can get out of things." A man with more grounds

so they might as well have a go

at the manager."

for optimism is John Gregory, whose Aston Villa team will retake the top of the Premiership if they defeat Sheffield Wednesday at home.

"We have had a few punch-

progress on the other strug- Slade's Christmas record on wake of Saturday night's defeat Middlesbrough was arguably Boxing Day, then it was the For- at Blackburn, "and we have their best of the season. They meet Newcastle today bounce back and win our next with both sides looking for a

game. That is what we need to consistent shape to their seado against Wednesday. son. Liverpool have had suc-"The Blackburn game was cessive wins after their worst only our second away defeat in run in 44 years, while the Ty-15 Premiership matches, which nesiders switch from good to bad almost as quickly as Ruud isn't bad. But with the standards we set ourselves, it is al-Gullit flits from the Netherways difficult to accept when we lands to the north-east. A low was thoroughly exfall below it. So I am not the happiest man in the Premiership

at the moment."

because Saturday's 3-1 win at

plored on Saturday, and Gullit estimated Newcastle would not have scored if they had played Standards have also fallen at Anfield if yesterday's allegafor another hour against Leeds, tions are true that the Liverpool but at least they have a player players' Christmas party last wbo makes Anfield fearful week descended into a near every time he sets foot in the orgy. Yet their manager Gérard place. A few Liverpool defend-Houllier must have been soreers will have seen Duncan Ferguson in their dreams last night ly tempted to book some stripand shuddered. pers for the coach home.

Not that Houllier was any-

thing but upbeat yesterday. "The players have got to be aware that they have got 19 games in front of them, and if

they want it individually and as a team, they can reach something," he said. "But they have got to keep that kind of spirit and that kind of work rate. 1 know their capabilities but it's one thing to say that 1 came here to win something with Liverpool and it's another to do

the right thing for it." Middlesbrough face a trip to Derby knowing that a point against Houllier's side would have set a new club record of 465 days since an away team won a league game at the Riverside Stadium. They, at least, are happy the congested programme gives them an early opportunity to make

"If people thought we were going to go for another six months without losing a game then I'm afraid they were mistaken," their captain, Andy Townsend, said. "The beauty with this particular one is that we've got 48 hours before we're at it again and we've got a

chance to put it right." Back to Kidd and a set of Blackburn players who have had to play at night twice over the holiday period, this time at Leicester.

"It's not humane playing again in 48 hours," Kidd said. "but that's the Premiership

though, isn't it?
"That is bow you get injuries, through fatigue. It would not happen abroad." It would not. But do not expect the au-thorities to listen. They shoot horses, don't they?

International dies of heart attack aged 33

ROY POWELL, one of rugby BY DAVE HADFIELD league's most respected players, has died suddenly at the age of 33.

Powell, capped 19 times by thought to bave been a heart attack on his way to training at in him. Rochdale Hornets yesterday and was pronounced dead on arriving at hospital

A hard-working second-row Powell made his name with ford, Featherstone and Batley. This winter be joined Hornets, career" who have now lost two players in swift succession, following wrong places at the wrong the death two months ago of Karl Marriott, also from a heart level - the Trans-Pennine Cup

attack, at the age of 28. Powell, who was given the one of the fittest players of his one in Australia in 1988. generation as well as one of the best-liked. Hugely popular at Leeds, he was taken by one of his coaches there, Peter Fox, to Bradford, where be held together an ageing pack until he became one of the casualties of a mass clear-out under the

new coach Brian Smith in 1995. That was the end of his career in the top division, hut be lost none of bis enthusiasm for the game. At Batley, he had helped his old friend. Deryck Fox. with the coaching and was to do the same at Rochdale.

"He would have made a good coach, because he never lost his

No 3804 Monday 28 December

temper," said his mentor. Peter Fox, yesterday. "I used to play hell with him, telling him that Great Britain between 1985 if he'd had a fraction of my and 1991, suffered what is aggression be'd have been a world-beater - hut it just wasn't

"He was a smashing lad wbo would do anything for anybody. On the field he would forage forever. Whenever you needed and latterly prop forward, him, he was there. He was a fantastic worker, but he could Leeds, later moving to Brad- also release the ball - something he developed later in his

Although he was in the with Batley last season was an exception - be had some nickname Bruno because of memorable days in Test match his likeness to the boxer, was rugby, none better than the

> The Great Britain touring party, 2-0 down in the series and badly hit by injuries, was being pilloried by a hostile Australian

Powell was part of the Great Britain pack that broke a 10year drought by beating Australia 26-12 in Sydney, a win that ranks alongside the Rorke's Drift Test in 1914 and the 1958 Battle of Brisbane as British rugby league highpoints of tours Down Under.

He leaves a widow, Helen and two children, four-year-old Lewis and Melissa, seven



Another Harlequins' drive founders at the Stoop yesterday. The Londoners' one-dimensional tactics were nearly found wanting by a resurgent Sale

ACROSS

ing money invested in US city (6)

- Ready only to supply One like Christian, with time to make journey
- 10 Spots daredevil (4) 11 Submitted to the Spanish guard (8) 12 Is depressed about being cast off (6)
- 13 Arrange bush money (4) Many unfortunately hav- 15 Pledge to provide protection (8)
- 18 Gripes about greeting Italian composer (8) high quality material (8) 19 Communist currency, by 22 The French almost the sound of it (4) 21 Count's seized by a love of god (6) 23 Polite expression of sur
 - prise (8) 25 Hear poem that's outstanding (4) 26 Qualified person accept-

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ing the German is physically fit (4-6) Cause lady to loose heart at once (8) 28 Angry outburst em-anates from husiness unit inside (6)

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

Herb obtained in Japan is expensive (5) Beam trawler? (9) Notice European on fringes of circle is wellgroomed (6) Cvril asks Helen about admitting good writer Bird bert retting stuck m drain (8)

Further added to society's conventions (5) Perfume of a sort we're distilling (9) Crush superior force (9) Memo about American

sell off (9) 17 Number I allow out in the dark (8) 20 Note extent of opening

move (6) abandon plant (5) 24 Done on purpose to cause capsize (5)

Sure-footed Schuster saves Quins' blushes

HAD HARLEQUINS lost this match, the Stoop last night would have been more desolate than a turkey farm. In one of the more curious encounters of the season, Quins entrusted almost all to their pack and the goal-kicking of John Schuster and very nearly came unstuck.

In the end Quins recorded their seventh win from their last eight Premiership games after seeing a 17-3 lead reduced to two points midway through the second half. Zinzan Brooke, the player-coach, clearly thought Sale was susceptible un front and, fuelled by a stream of penalties, Quins repeatedly went for the hig drive, some times throwing threequarters into the rolling mauls, and repeatedly they were denied. On three occasions they lost the

ball over the line. One of the reasons for the Quins' run of form following a dismal start to the season has been the remarkable accuracy of Schuster. He was the first player in the Premiership to pass 200 points, landing 69 kicks out of 80, a pbenomenal strike rate. Yesterday he kicked two penalties in the first five

RUGBY UNION

BY TIM GLOVER Harlequins

minutes hut missed three others before half-time when the home side led 9-3.

The first half had been almost exclusively confined to rolling mauls - Sale only got into the Quins' 22 twice in the first half hour - and Schuster kicking at goal.

Within a minute of the restart the complexion changed when Jamie Williams, probably the fastest full-back in the league, came into the Quins line, kicked ahead and got the touch-down, exploiting a mistake hy his opposite number Jim Mallinder.

When Schuster kicked a fourth penalty in the 53rd minute, Quins, unbeaten at home, were 14 points ahead. Within the space of a couple of minutes, Barrie-Jon Mather, the rugby league convert from Wigan, tore huge holes in the Quins' midfield defence. His

Chris Yates and the second for Steve Hanley. Shane Howarth was narrowly wide with the first conversion but kicked the second to make it 17-15.

In the last five minutes he had two long-range penalty attempts, down-wind, to win the game but put the first to the right of the posts and the second to the left. It was noticeable that when the Sale stand-off took the second kick, Brooke got as close to the whites of Howarth's eyea as possible. Gamesmanship? It is what be

"I'm just very relieved," John Gallagher, Quins' director of rugby, said. "We got away with it. We put in a great deal of effort hut in the end we needed a bit of luck."

Sale were severely handicapped by an inability to guarantee their own line out ball and on five occasions Phil Greening failed to find his jumper.

"I get annoyed with our naivety and lack of leadership." John Mitchell, the Sale coach, said. "We need an experienced pack leader and I've been saying that for a long time. It is first break resulted in a try for about time the board took

players and it is their job to deal with it on the field."

Mitchell, England's forward coach, said he was in the market place for a wise, although not necessarily old, head to rect his forwards.

He is not currently worried that Sale risk slipping into the bottom two of the table and having to face a battle with relegation, but admits that at present his side have no chance of honours.

'We are far too good a side to get involved in the bottom two places," the coach said. "We have a decent crop of players and some excellent youngsters but we just need that something extra."

Politics action

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extra."

Mariequins: Try Williams; Penalties Schwster (4). Salle: Tries Vates, Henley. Conversion Howarth: Penalty Howarth. Harlequins: J Williams; O O'Leary, D Officer (J Cayter, 77), J Schuster, O Luger, T Lacroix (capt), H Harries (C Wright, 70); J Leonard. 7 Murphy, G Haipun (D Barres, 70), G Liewellyn, G Morgan (B Davison, 30), Z Brooke, C Sheasby, R Jenkins. Sale: J Mallimder (capt): M Moore, B-J Mather, C Yates. S Nanley, S Howarth, K Ellis; O Bell, P Greening, P Winstanley (Howards), P Anglesea (A Sanderson, 74), O O'Culneagan, P Sanderson, 74).

More reports, results,



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احكذا من الأحل

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS •

Praise Be! It's Thora Hird

hora Hird is a DBE, an OBE and a DLitt, and I point out to her that there are more letters after her name than there are in it. But Thora didn't get where she is today - London Television Centre, to be exact, in a sumptuous mink coat - by succumbing to flattery. "Yes I know, luv," she says, "And it's all very nice, but I scrubbed my mother's steps when I was younger, y'know,"

Those Lancashire vowels are as raw as ever, even though Thora has lived for nigh on 60 years in a mews off London's Bayswater Road. I have to call ber Thora, incidentally, "Hird" or even "Dame Thora" sounds all wrong for a woman, like Delia and Cilla, with whom the nation is on first-

On the day we meet, Thora has been collected in a posh car and delivered to London Television Centre for a screening of Lost For Words, Deric Longden's tear-jerking autobiographical drama in which she plays the ailing mum of a writer, played by Pete Postlethwaite. There are some saccbarine moments, but Lost For Words is a treat all the same, and increasing frailty has not hlunted Thora's superb comic timing. "Do you want to be huried, mum, or cremated?" asks Postlethwaite. "Ob I don't know, luv," she says. A tiny pause. It's

all in the pause, "Surprise me."
Following the screening, which has reduced her to tears - "fancy crying at yer-yelf pretending" - Thora is wheeled into an adjoining room for our interview. She is at pains to tell me that she is not normally confined to a wheelchair, but is still recovering from a nasty fall. "Do you have a wife, luv?" Er, yes. "Well, she'll tell you that green beans are a hit stringy." A conversation with Thora Hird takes some surreal tangents, but she always gets there in the end. "I was taking the strings off and, when I thought I'd done enough, I turned round a bit quickly, and that's when I fell. I was nearly three weeks in the hospital. couldn't get the circulation going in my foot. There's a big word for it."

At 87, Thora is beyond political correctness, hence her beloved mink coat and the assumption that de-stringing green beans is women's work. But there is nothing fuddyduddy about her. A week after our encounter, she was back at London Television Centre to appear on This Morning. and found herself in a lift with James Nesbit, one of the stars of the racy relationship drama Cold Feet. Nesbit hung his bead while she scolded him about the amount of sex in Cold Feet. "I never miss it. though luv," she added brightly.

She watches lots of television, and

thinks there is far too much sex, but finds Amusing rather than offensive. "Did you see that one about the prossies?" she asks. She means Vice: The Sex Trade, the ITV series in which a woman was seen breastfeeding a grown man. "What made me laugh was when the interviewer called her a prostitute and she said: 'One minute. I'm not a prostitute, as though she was doing something more bonourable by putting a nappy on a fella and giving him his supper. Excuse me, I'm not a prostitute.' Such dig-nity. I thought: 'Dear God, you've offended the prostitutes."

Thora chuckies. She loves playing to an audience, even an audience of one, and she has dressed for the occasion. The mink is removed, with some difficulty to reveal a repart black velvet trouser suit. She keeps her felt hat, which is speared with a huge pearl hat-pin. She is wearing shiny black sandals. Actually, she's a bit of an Imelda Marcos on the quiet, with 89 pairs of shoes. But her feet have swelled up since the fall, and she has to wear the sandals,

which she loathes. Thora takes great pride in her appear- is the former film starlet Janette Scott, who ance. Her mottled hands are adorned with chunky rings, and she has long, polished fingernails. She is, in fact, quite a

giampuss. This is a little disconcerting, the opposite of spotting Joan Collins in an old kagoule. The screen Thora Hird-as seen in films like All My Loving, and TV sitcoms such as In Loving Memory and Last of the Summer Wine - tends to be a frumpilydressed creature. Moreover, you don't see women in mink coats chugging up Stan-nah stairlifts, which she used to advertise on the telly, or presenting Praise Be.



Our favourite dame loves Beverly Hills but won't live there. 'There's no corner shop. You know what I mean, don't yer luv?' The Lancashire vowels are still raw and, at 87, she is beyond political correctness. By Brian Viner

C 200 0 ●

was once married to the singer Mel Torme and still lives in Beverly Hills. Has she been to Beverly Hills?

'Ob yes. Twenty-four times. It's perfect for a boliday, hut there's no corner sbop. You know what I mean, lux, don't yer? They're very nice to me there, I must say. When they find out that I've played in the West End they say: 'Oh my Gaad.'" She chuckles again. "Once, there was a director who thought of putting me in Bonanza, that show with thingummy [Lorne] Greene. I said: But my voice is Lancashire." He said: That doesn't matter, we could have which she did for 17 years. And the in- a cowboy whose mother comes from Lancongruities don't stop there. Her daughter cashire." What a laugh. From Lancashire."

From Morecambe, to be precise, where Thora Hird was born in May 1911. Her mother was an actress and her father was stage manager of the town's Royalty Theatre. "I first went on stage when I was eight weeks old as the illegitimate child of the village maiden, who was played by my mother," says Thora. I like to say that it was the only part I've ever got through influence."

She had a happy childhood, although the death of her older sister, Olga, killed by a motorbike on Morecambe promenade, cast a long shadow. "She was buried on the day she was six, and my mother never stopped saying to me, even when I grew up: Don't forget to look both ways." Thora

sighs. She needs no prodding to talk about ton on (the Sixties sitcom) Meet The Wife, Morecambe in the Twenties and Thirties, and recalls the young Eric Bartholomew, who followed her into showbiz and changed his name. He used to quip that he took the name of his home town - Morecambe. Thora laughs at that one. "I knew him long before he became Eric Morecambe," she says. "But we weren't particular friends. He was younger than me: I'm 87, y know."

Amazingly, she is still in touch with a gaggle of childhood friends, "although I had two less Christmas cards to write this year". Among ber classmates were Vera Muff, Madge Peel, Ada Lob and Maudie Poles. "You can't believe names like that, can yer? When I worked with Freddie FrinI could finish him off just by mentioning those names.

At 17, Thora Hird became a cashier at the Lancaster and District Co-op, an unlikely stand-in for Rada, yet the Co-op was effectively her drama school. "I used to look at some of the customers and think, 'if I ever take up acting seriously, I'll play ber.' I've played nearly all of them now. People say to me: 'That woman was so lifelike.' I say: 'She is, she lives in Morecambe."

In 1931, she joined Morecambe rep, earning £1 a week playing a succession of maids. Her big break was engineered by another Lancastrian, George Formby, who was already a hig star when he saw her in

a play called As You Are. "He said to me: Ee you were good, I want the studios to see you." Soon afterwards, a white £5 note was delivered to cover her fare to London, and sbe arrived at Ealing Studios on the day war broke out.

"I got there just as the alert went, and even the man oo the gate ran for it, so I followed everyone into the sbelter and sat next to a woman from the restaurant wbo was shelling peas. All I could think was that I'd be late for my appointment, I didn't realise that everyone would be down there."

Like many people of ber age, Thora's recollection of events 60-odd years ago is astonishing, even though she can be a littie shaky on what happened yesterday. She tells me in extraordinary detail about a wartime incident on the platform of Oxford Circus Tube station, the gist being that an "inebriated" GI asked her how much sbe charged for sexual favours, and she replied: "I don't know, what do your mother and sister charge?" which made him cry. That anecdote reveals a side to the real Thora Hird that we sometimes see on screen, a sharp tongue and a caustic wit,

Latterly, her most cantankerous characters have been invented by Victoria Wood. She was wonderfully had-tempered in a fleeting cameo in Wood's BBCI sitcom, Dinnerladies, and downright nasty in the comedy-drama Pat and Margaret. "I think Victoria Wood is brilliant. Do you remember when that woman in Put and Mnrgaret found out that her mild-mannered son had had sex in her house? 'Not on my elderdown,' she said. That's one of my favourite lines."

Another favourite line was written, not Bennett. "I can't recall the name of the play just now, but I played a woman who had to ask her son what the word 'lesbian' meant. 'It's women who sleep together, mum,' he said. 'Oh,' she said. 'Me and your Auntie Phyllis always slept together during the air raids.' That's marvellous, isn't it? Bennett is brilliant. You'd have to be very poor not to do something with his words."

Thora knows, I suspect, that she is selling herself short. Ten years ago, in Bennett's Talking Heads, she gave a remarkably moving performance in Cream Cracker Under The Sofa, and was no less affecting in the best of this year's Talking Heads 2. Waiting For The Telegram.

"He's not a fussy man, Bennett," she says. "When I'd done it, he just put his arm round my shoulders and said: 'Oh thank you.' It took me about a fortnight to learn and you have to learn it well because Bennett will tell you if you say 'it' and it's 'but'. That's what keeps my mind active, learning lines, and that's why I shall go on. But it's harder than it used to be. Jimmy was always on the book, you see.

Sbe means Jimmy Scott, her husband of 56 years, who helped her learn her lines. He died four years ago. following a massive stroke, and Thora's matter-of-fact recollection of the day he collapsed could almost have been scripted by Alan Bennett.

"I've a lot of copper pans in my kitchen and I thought one had fallen on the floor. He'd fallen backwards into the bath and I'm ashamed to say I didn't know it was a stroke. I thought he'd fainted. I phoned my neighbour, Robert Kelly, the American painter of nudes and trees. Brilliant. He's a big man. But he was out. His wife called the ambulance and they took Jimmy to St Mary's Hospital where they're so prompt, I don't think. He was picked up at 25 past nine in the morning, and at 12 o'clock they put him in a ward. But I doubt it would have made a difference.

"The strokes organisations have been so wonderful to me since then, I can't tell you, and I've been helping them raise money. I weot to open a new place in Staffordshire, and another in Hull, and while I was having drinks with the Reverend this or that, a man came over and said: 'Can I have a word with you, Thora?' We had a conversation and the next day a lady said 'Do you remember that man you talked to last night. It was the first time he's spoken for four years'."

Thora shakes her head at the wonder of it all. In Lost For Words, very poignantly, her character has a massive stroke. "I don't mind telling you, tuv, that I wept when I read the script," she says. And then she turns to her nurse, who has sat in on the interview. "I think it's time to go, luv," she says. "Will you fetch my mink"

'Lost For Words' is on ITV on 3 January

Comment

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Wrong, on both counts. If Peter Mandelson can secure finance at advantageous terms why should he not purchase a house that he wants in the area he wants?

It is not the house purchase, the value of the house or the method of its financing which is crucial. What is central to the whole affair is disclosure or, more accurately, lack of disclosure.

By failing to disclose his arrangement with Geoffrey Robinson (and there were many opportunities to do so) he allows the public to conclude quite reasonably that there is something to hide. Politicians are accountable to

the voters, who can only make an informed choice if all the facts are known. Concealment is to treat the electorate with contempt. Mandelson is to be applauded for resigning and for doing so quickly but he is wrong to suggest be has done nothing wrong or improper.
MICHAEL C WARREN Sheffield

Sir: Just two days before Christmas, the season of good will to all men, another of our public figures has found out that such courtesies are rarely shown to politicians who make mistakes.

Since before the last election. Peter Mandelson has been a figure of hate for the press. Opposition and even some within the Labour Party, I had no particular opinion of Mr Mandelson before this event. But the all-too-familiar character assassination he has been subjected to over the last couple of days has left me feeling a great deal of sympathy for him.

For the sake of those who were so quick in judging him, and in the spirit of the season, I hope that they have no skeletons they would rather keep hidden, I also wish that we could all learn to be more understanding and tolerant of the mistakes of others. TOBIAS MELIA Crawley, West Sussex

Sir: I can't help reflecting that it would probably take a lot more than a third of a million pounds to cause the downfall of a Conservative minister. KEVIN HOLLIDAY Aberdeen

Sir: Peter Mandelson was wise to avoid the final responsibility for the Millennium Dome, but did he have to go to these lengths? PETER REYNOLDS

Seasonal theology

Sir: One of the more tedious aspects of Christmas is the halfbaked theology paraded by people who should know better. Your leading article on 24

December claims that Jesus preached "all people are equal". If you read the Bible you will see he preached no such thing. And neither, until recently, did the Church. Stranger still, you say the hirth

of Christ represents "the triumph of human creativity". The Son of God born of a virgin - human creativity? And have you not noticed Christianity teaches that triumph and creativity belong to God and insists humans should he humble?

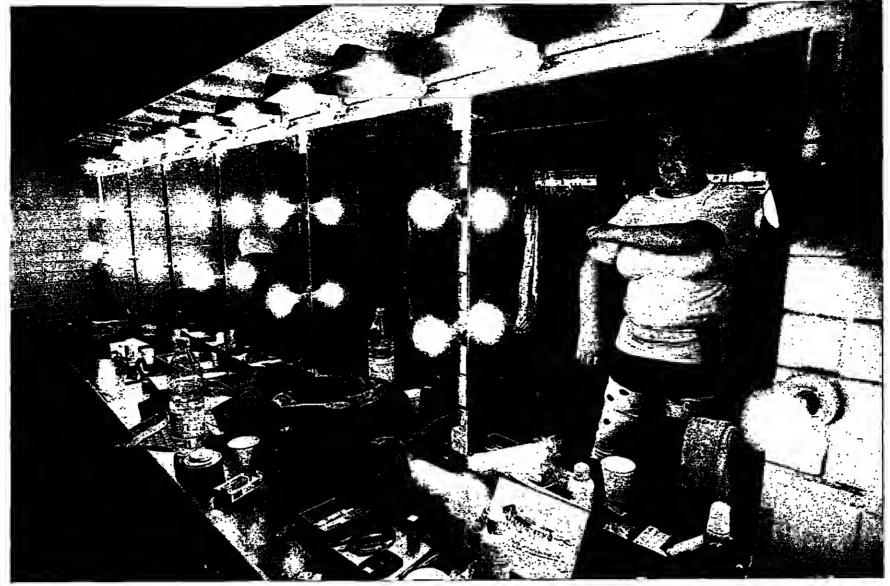
You have taken the humanist values you share with your readers and then reached for some religious touches to dress them up. But Christian ideas do not fit them, which perhaps explains why churches are so empty. DAVID BISHOP

Sir: Many adults do still 'experience a feeling of great personal satisfaction from the simple act of being seasonably nice to someone" (letter, 18 December).

In our area a group of volunteers takes over the kitchen of a local school to cook, serve and share a Christmas dinner with

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for leogth and clarity



The panto season No 1: Steve Bennett prepares to go on stage as Sarah the cook in 'Dick Whittington', playing in Exeter

John Voos

of our gardens and houses, simply

that we learn to remedy what we

have destroyed. The nut-feeder

and nest-box are no longer

our attention and care.

MARILYN DAVIES

sufficient. We cannot remain

Gargrave, North Yorkshire

Sir. Children's mental health

and we share Peter Wilson:

concern on this subject.

Attachment Disorder is

Organisation as a serious,

whose early attachment

needs (letter, 22 December) are

recognised by the World Health

relatively fixed emotional and

relationships were abnormal.

behavioural disturbance in a child

Policies that encourage all-day

creches, nursery hotels etc ignore

the abnormality of this care for

years require consistent one-to-

herd animals and in the early

one care, preferably by their

Research evidence and

common sense support this view,

yet the Government continues to

ignoring the army of mothers who

would prefer to care for their own

supported financially and socially

support alternative child-care,

babies at home if they were

Families would also need

reassurance that a work re-entry

system was in place for mothers

once their children started school

children during their crucial first

three years are misunderstood or

Disorder tragedies will increase.

ignored, adult Attachment

What About The Children

Pershore, Hereford and

SUE CLASEN

Worcestershire

Chairman

While the emotional needs of

mothers, who are uniquely

equipped for this vital,

undervalued joh.

to do so.

babies and infants. Babies are not

indeed different to those of adults,

complacent or shift the blame

have an equal place and demand

What children need

about 60 local residents who would otherwise be lonely on Christmas day. Others help to man the homeless shelter, or deliver meals on wheels or carry out countless regular visits in support of the elderly, sick or disabled.

Whatever his needs or skills, I'm quite sure Mr Welch's local volunteer centre would be delighted to hear from him at any time of the year. Merry Christmas.

FRANCES PENFOLD Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Duty-free bonanza

Sir: Your leading article (12 December) and various articles concerning the "duty-free pantomime" continue to overlook one of the most important aspects of the issue. There are political and employment aspects, but the key factor is money.

Duty-free retailing is fabulously profitable. The price charged is certainly not the normal retail price less the normal duty. Operating ferries, airlines or airports at those profit margins would be impossible. One can huy a litre of duty-paid brandy in a normal shop in Spain for about £5. To huy a bottle of the same brandy in a duty-free store in England costs about £15.

The only real test of whether jobs may be lost is not counting those people employed in the dutyfree industry but to ask "will people drink less, smoke less, use ess perfume, have a smaller wardrobe and so on if they cannot huy them at duty-free prices?" and I guess the answer is "no". And will travellers from abroad not wish to take home souvenirs from the country they visit, such as a bottle of scotch from the UK, if they have to pay normal shop prices? I guess they will. So on the production and distribution side

there should be not much change. The other money issue concerns the Government. Rates of duty in the UK are so high and generate such an income stream for the Treasury that they have no desire to reduce them in line with Europe. To do that would leave a gap in the revenue which would have to be filled with a compensating rise in other taxes.

We should be allowed to huy any products we want, wherever we want in Europe, at whatever price we are willing to pay, take them anywhere and do what we like with them, including selling them.

This duty-free situation is a true pantomime and, like all pantomimes, it should end after Christmas. PHILIP EDWARDES-KER Weybridge, Surrey

The name game

Sir: Your story about the Norwegian woman jailed for giving her son a name which is not on the country's approved list ("Jail for giving son illegal name", 24 December) prompted me to give thought to current trends in the names given to children in the UK.

The enthusiasm for hyphenated forenames, Emily-Jade, John-Paul, Lori-Lei etc. seems to be on the wane and has been replaced by parents personalising children's names through variations of spelling or pronunciation.

My understanding, which I assume was mistaken, was that Registrars of Births were required to advise parents on the usual

Sir: The Archbishop of

sanctioning wars were

Perhaps at this time of

Dr Carey would be wise to

confine his message to safer

eace and goodwill to all men

Christian themes such as "thou

Canterbury's comments that

spellings of the chosen name for their child.

I wonder if they are actually creating confusion and difficulty for the owners of the names in an attempt to create something individual and personal.

Teachers are now frequently confused by the plethora of individual spellings, or by the nonstandard pronunciation of wellestablished names.

Individual spellings which I have encountered recently include Danyell (Danielle), Kattie (Katie or Katy), Jayde (Jade), Mikala (Michaela), Ashlee (Ashley), Amii and Aimee (Amy), Lynnett (Lynnette, I presume,

rather than Linnet). I'm not sure who is more confused. Is it me, the ageing teacher, who is struggling to spell or pronounce the children's names according to the parents' wishes; or is it the children themselves who have to explain their names each time they encounter a new teacher and are likely to have to do so throughout their lives?

I have no objection to adults choosing to call themselves by whatever name they wish, but I think there needs to be some care and discretion in naming children -though not to the extent of jailing errant parents. PHILIP PARKIN Grimsby, Lincolnshire

Our sterile gardens

Sir: Your currespondent on the disappearance of songbirds (letter, 16 December) has isolated the wrong predator, but identified one area offering great potential for sustaining our wild bird population. It is effectively a national park in our own back gardens.

In our desire to create the ideal home and garden, we have succeeded only in creating a barren and sterile environment. In urban and rural areas alike, we repovate and destroy. We remove food sources, safe shelter and potential nest sites. We use

chemicals that kill A house I knew as a child had a large garden which provided food and cover enough for high-density populations of hirds and mammals, both common and not so common. Even a hare reared her leverets there. But the place has been developed; the garden huilt upon, the outhouses converted. The hirds and animals have gone.

By contrast, close by, and therefore subject to the same environmental factors (including predation), there is an unconverted farm. It has rambling huildings, barns and a large manure heap. It offers a constant source of food and shelter and remains a paradise for hirds. predator and prey alike.

IN BRIEF

recent air strikes on Iraq were shalt not kill" and leave the a "sad necessity" ("Carey backs the use of force", 23 approval of such matters to the December) seem singularly conscience of our elected inappropriate, given both representatives MARK WOODWARD his office and the Christmas season. I had thought that London E15 the time of Christian leaders far behind ns in a less civil-

Sir. Andrew Marshall ('Allies split over banana war", 23 December) says that in the current USA vs Europe trade dispute "the casualty count will be lower" than in the attack on Iraq. Not true, of course: if

America wins, the ensuing poverty in the Caribbean will lead to many more casualties than a few nights of bombing could ever achieve. MATCOWARD

Sir: Apart from immigrants, almost everybody in this country is a descendant of economic migrants ("Who are these asylum-seeking scum? They're people like my grandparents", 15 December). Mrs L PALMER Colchester, Essex

Humanity for Iraq

Sir: Your correspondent Robert Fisk has heen trying, seemingly in vain, to remind Britain and America that the policies they are pursuing towards the Arabs of the Middle East are misguided

and wrong.

Now Mr Blair and company talk about keeping Saddam Hussein in a cage, but has it never occurred to them that caging an angry man only adds to his fury, which will be in nobody's interest?

Perhaps the leaders of the United States and Britain might, during this season of goodwill, reflect on and heed the advice given by a truly good man shared by both countries, William Penn of England and Pennsylvania: "For if men did see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue but love gains, and he that forgives first wins the laurel."

Perhaps a little understanding and humane treatment of Iraq. together with some honest evaluation of the problem in the Middle East, will let all out of their cages.

Or are such sentiments and hopes alien to the scheming natures of the present-day leaders of the western world? IRRASMY Honiton,

Sir: I have recently returned from Baghdad, where for one-and-a-half years it was my joh to report the progress of the humanitarian Oil for Food programme.

Ministers and senior members of the Opposition frequently state that the Iraqi leadership have diverted supplies under this programme. This is a serious error.

Some 150 international observers, travelling throughout Iraq, reported to the United Nations Multidisciplinary Observer Unit, of which I was the head. At no time was any diversion recorded. I made this clear in our reports to the UN Secretary General, and he reported in writing I am not advocating dilapidation

to the Security Council accordingly. In the case of private donations outside the Oil for Food programme, those which arrived by air were observed by us, and no diversion was recorded. Humanitarian supplies arriving elsewhere. Predator and prey alike by road were not within our remit, although my contact with the Iraqi Red Crescent, which has a co-ordination role, would suggest no diversion.

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With regard to private medical donations, again nothing directly to do with the Oil for Food programme, there has sometimes been confusion. All supplies, in accordance with international before distribution by the government testing authority. Kimadia. (Some suppliers, in ignorance, tried to avoid this). I know of more than one occasion when outdated medicines arrived, and Kimadia was naturally reluctant for them to be distributed.

Bombing Iraq is a matter of the utmost seriousness, in particular in view of the civilian casualties. It is imperative at the very least that our facts are correct. MICHAEL STONE Polruan.

Roundly irritating

Sir. The latest complaint in The Irritations of Modern Life wrongly refers to "round robins" (Review, 23 December).

A round robin is not a circular letter from one person to several It is a collective letter from

several people to one person, usually in the form of a protest or petition about a grievance, with the signatures arranged in a circle so that no one's name appears at the top, in order to avoid the victimisation of ringleaders.

One of the most irritating irritations of modern life is the way people get this kind of thing wrong. ANNA FREEMAN Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

My recipe for surviving the Twelve Days after Christmas

WE GET a lot of advice about the etc. Paracetamol all gone, though. run-up to Christmas - cooking, last minute shopping, etc – hut no advice at all on what to do in the aftermath, no post-Christmas counselling as it were.

So in this ground-breaking column I am going to talk you through the wind-down from Christmas Day to Twelfth Night, detailing what exactly happens on each day, so that you can tick things off as they occur.

(I am assuming that I am addressing a thoroughly typical British family, that is a single parent with partner, 1.5 children, two relations you remember inviting and five you don't.)

First Night All the presents are opened and all the food eaten, except the nuts, Turkish delight, half the turkey etc.

One of you says: "Well, that's all over, then, thank God". The other

says: "Not by a long chalk". The phone rings It's a relation in a far-off country. "Belinda!" you cry. "Happy

Christmas! We tried to ring earlier, but all lines were busy." You know you have to thank Belinda for a present, but you can't remember off-hand what it is, so you mouth to your partner. "What did

I get from Belinda"? Your partner thinks you are saying: "Have you switched off the blender?", goes to have a look and never comes back.

Second Night You find a present under the Christmas Tree which nobody has opened and which has no label on it. Nobody recognises it.

A child says to you: "I can't make this toy work. Can you make it work for me?" You can't.

The smell of turkey stock is heard in the land Third Night Your partner says: "Have you seen

that list I made of who gave which present to whom?" You haven't. Fourth Night You prepare to dispose of all the

wrapping paper, hut think you should go through it first in case you find any valuables. You don't. You wake up convinced that you watched The Maltese Falcon on TV

thing that happened. This is clearly impossible. You go back to sleep. A grand expedition to the bottle bank is mounted. A small glass ornament falls off

last night and understood every-



KINGTON

In this ground-breaking column I'll talk you through the wind-down to Twelfth Night

the tree and breaks. The dog tries to eat it. In a quiet moment, you say to Bottle hank expedition returns,

partner says: "Never" You don't actually define which hit of Christmas you're talking about

Sixth Night Still no sign of the return of the grand expedition to the bottle bank. Should you tell someone?

Three cards arrive in the post, two from people you didn't send cards to, and one from someone you sent a card to, and who obviously sent one off to you in return,

which were too hig, too small, or too tight under the arms. Someone says: "I wonder if we should phone the vet about the dog and the glass, just in case?"

First attempt to change presents

Seventh Night

saying that they couldn't find a botyour partner: "Never again". Your tle bank anywhere which wasn't full, hut they got invited to a very good party by some people who were also trying to dump bottles and sort of stayed on for a day or two.

Someone says: "Talking of parties, when were we invited round to the Galloways?"

Someone else says: "Oh my God, it was last night." Eighth Night

Turkeyburgers for lunch again. First heavy fall of Christmas tree

Dog eats unopened present, Looks like a scarf. Ninth Night

At lunch, someone says: "Are these turkeyburgers again?" You say: "Certainly not - they're hrussel sproutburgers." Go to visit relatives you are

dreading seeing, never suspecting they are dreading seeing you. Tenth Night In a quiet moment, you say to your

partner: "It wasn't that bad, actually". Your partner says: "Could have been a lot worse." Yes, memory is starting to play tricks already. Eleventh Night

Worried about the dog again, after the discovery of a strange pile of detritus which suggests dog is leaving very strange droppings, perhaps as

result of scarf poisoning. Dog worries are over - the detritus is identified as left-overs from mulled wine. Twelfth Night

Partner gets call from Belinda, and says to you later: "Did you ever get that scarf from Belinda?" You say: "Ah! I think the dog ate

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*THE INDEPENDENT

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Mr Blair's faith in his 'project' may well be misplaced

 ${\bf MINISTERS\,MAY\,fall,\,but\,the\,"Project\,New\,Labour"\,is\,still}$ steaming ahead, said Tony Blair yesterday, before jetting off to the Seychelles for his place in the sun. He should be

In the first place, Mr Mandelson isn't just any minister. He is the key member of the team that created "New Labour", or at least the Blairite revolution as defined in the world of sound-bites, focus groups and rhetoric. In his absence, Mr Blair has not only lost a close supporter but one whose weight - and access to the Prime Minister - shaped the balance of power in the Government. Without him, other forces are bound to move to fill the vacuum, in an air already poisoned by accusations that his downfall was plotted in the court of Chancellor Gordon Brown. As history has shown repeatedly, the way to wound a king is always by hurting the closest adviser.

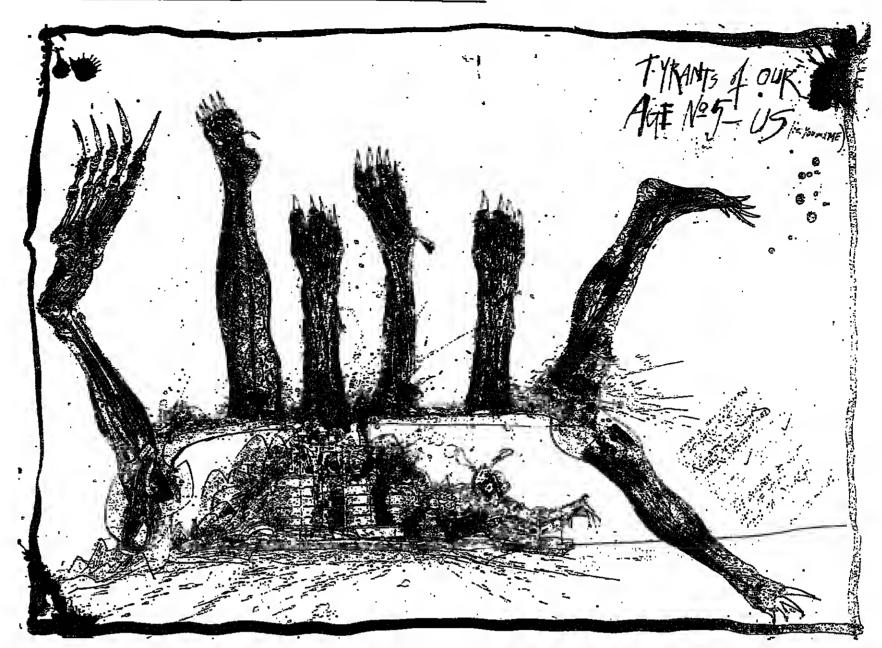
And as Mr Brown moves in from one direction, his opponents are closing in from others. The combination of John Prescott and Rohin Cook, which we report today, is not just an alliance of the previously marginalised in the Labour Cahinet. It could mark the resurgence of that significant group in Labour which has never been fully committed to Mr Blair's cherished vision.

Which hrings in the other point, "Project New Labour" was fine as a slogan for opposition, a standard by which the forces of the left could present a more reassuring and modern face to the voting public. But Labour isn't in opposition anymore. It is in government - 18 months into government, indeed. And it will be defined by what it does with power.

In that sense the Prime Minister could understandahly argue in his radio interview yesterday that all this concentration on personalities is out of proportion. It is education, the economy and health which matter and those will have to be dealt with whether or not Mandelson or Robinson are present in government. But appearances do matter today.

Peter Mandelson didn't resign because he broke the rules of ministerial behaviour. He went because, after a day of trying to justify his behaviour, it hecame apparent that the press and the public weren't going to wear it. So as his rivals feud and hicker like so many medieval barons, the man who most understood New Labour is in exile.

Now comes the great test for the Government, the one on which all governments ultimately succeed or fail: namely, the test of competence. Far from this being just a case of a minister who did wrong, who resigned and "it's over", as Mr Blair argued yesterday, his problems of prime ministership are only just beginning. Can we suggest a biography of Harold Wilson as his holiday reading in the



Negotiations will help Sierra Leone, not guns

JUST WHEN the cause of African democracy seemed to be improving with the developments towards early elections in Nigeria, it has been set hack on its beels again in Sierra Leone, where a rebel force seems once more determined to bring down the democratically-elected government there. The fact that the West African contingent of troops sent in there to preserve democracy Is led by the Nigerians only makes it worse; still more so that the government was armed by British companies with the its arms exports give the means of revolt. Where the Ango-

apparent connivance of our own Government. As Tony Blair la crisis has drawn in the armies of five different African said earlier in the year, it may have all been in a noble cause. nations and threatens to set off the first all-African war this But nohle causes don't belp the tens of thousands of civilians who bave become, once again, the victims of the latest upsurge in violence.

The problem in Sierra Leone is, yet again, the presence of minerals and the nature of the land. Just as in Angola, or Zaire, military intervention can defend the towns, hut so loog as the rebels in the country can bave access to diamonds or other goods, then they can survive and arm themselves. Should we then despair? The answer has to be no. No. because the West has to hear some responsibility for what goes on in the Forgotten Continent, not least because its purchases still fuel the funds of rebellion, while

century, Sierra Leone has not drawn in its neighbours in the same way. Intervention has been organised regionally and multi-nationally though the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), which is to meet again today to consider the situation. .

Fighting could still get a great deal worse. But that is surely the lesson of Sierra Leone, just as it is of Kosovo. Immediate solutions are not always readily available. The responsibility of the outside world is not to meddle, still less to try to change the military power by arming one side or another. It is to promote stability by negotiation through the offices of international organisations and to keep on doing so even when the fighting appears to he eternal.

The people's trust may no longer be enough to solve Blair's dilemma

alyst of so much Government mayhem, stole away quietly from the scene of the commotion at the end of 1998, murmuring something about it being time to go while looking as if be had not the faintest idea why everyone around him was so worked up.

Meanwhile, Peter Mandelson spent Christmas at his mum's, where he was photographed looking strangely vulnerable, as men do around Christmas when they are wearing a very new ater. It would be unfair of Mr Mandeson to say that nothing in his political life became him like the leaving of it. But by going quickly and, even more importantly, with good grace, he has stored up some hlessings for himself. The precedents for ousted ministers returning to Cabinet are not good. But Mr Mandelson has broken more than one precedent in his career. He'll be back.

The departures of Mandelsoo and Robinson were a kind of bonfire of the vanities. Two separate but inter-linked dramatic plots inside New Labour detonated simultaneously. The Brown-ites and the Blairites in New Labour's simmering internal feud lost a player e. h. Despite the greater importance . Ir Mandelson, it is the Brownites who will take the harder loss. None dare call it treason, yet there are a lot of very disruptive questions about why news of the private loan surfaced and how much Mr Robinson's offers of largesse were intended to shore up an alternative power-hase grouped

around the Chancellor. In 1998, the Brown camp lost the

Macavity, Geoffrey Robinson, the cat- Brown from the strategically significant potion of Chief Whip. No 10 will continue the purge by ensuring that the next Paymaster General is far less colourful than Mr Robinson and nowhere near as doggedly devoted to Gordon Brown.

> The Prime Minister, albeit by an unexpected and circuitous route, gets back the state of affairs be described after the election as "Peter going on being Peter", which means Peter being on call for Tony when Tony has an election campaign to plan and the pro-Euro campaign to sort out. If ever there were a time when Mr Blair needed a spare brain unencumbered by ministerial cares, this is it.

> The third year in office is the time when we can reasonably ask which of the Government's plans are on course and which have gone walkabout: 1997 was an undisputed triumph - the year of walking on water, 1998 has seen him forced to start swimming, like any other mortal leader. As a result of his own miscalculation, Mr Blair lost a difficult but bright moderniser in Frank Field and a not-so-bright, but still admired personality in Harriet Harman. Welfare reform has returned to a rather more sedate pace than the advance billing announced.

Meanwhile, the New Deal, the flagship of New Labour's policies, is amhling along as Government employment-schemes do: patchily successful, relatively expensive. It will be sorely tested if the economy obliges the natioo's Cassandras and really does go into a bad recession next year. On Europe, Mr Blair has been forced,



ANNE MCELVOY

The third year is when we can ask which government plans are on course and which have gone walkabout

by some rather ragged diplomacy from the German government, to defend his de facto policy of British entry into the single currency and drop the pretence that he is still waiting and seeing. The starting signal for the British referendum battle has been given in Bonn. Mr Blair has no choice but to allow the argument to rage in the run-up to the next election. Mr Mandelson is now the obvious figurehead for the "yes" camp. His presence would demand that the opponents of EMU find an equally persuasive and professional candidate to oppose him the war of the television studios.

A great deal of Mr Blair's popularity is down to his ability to combine an unstilted and understanding manner with statesmanship. The combination has served him well in the run-up to the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland. But the end of the year

go, and there has been no IRA decommissioning. This state of affairs is becoming intolerable for even moderate Unionists. Without some republican gesture by the next Good Friday, Mr Blair will have trouble convincing doubters that the peace process is more than a grand exercise in wishful thinking.

We still await real information of how effective the last bombing of Iraq was. Mr Blair was stuck with the US policy of air power without a commitment to send in troops. In military terms, this is an extremely dodgy proposition. Saddam had to be bombed, said Mr Clinton and Mr Blair in unison. So bombed be was and is now "back in his cage". I have noted before that when the Prime Minister uses unamended the tabloid language of his spokesman Alastair Campbell, something is not quite right. Saddam is not back in his cage and will not be

so until he is dead or overthrown. The Government remains caught between the traditional Atlanticism which defines Blair's defence and security policies and the pro-Europeanism which is the mood music of New Labour and the underpinning of his pro-EMU stance. It will be very difficult for him to partake in any further Anglo-American military action without opening a split with the EU.

Anyway, the domestic battlefield provides challenges enough. The Scots and Welsh vote on their new assemblies in May. It seems unlikely to me that the Scottish Nationalists will oust Labour as some in the party high command fear. The real problems for

Labour in Scotland begin if they are elected as the single largest party. The pressure to challenge Westminster for more power and to strike out in a more overtly Old Labour direction will be considerable. In Wales, Mr Blair may yet find that there are no means fair or foul to rid himself of the disgustingly chirpy and very unreconstructed Rhodri Morgan. The European elections offer a rescue rope to William Hague. who will profit from the introduction of the PR system he opposes. Lahour will lose a lot of seats, which does not matter much of itself, but will be the first sign that the party is vulnerable

to the slings and arrows of elections. Politics is more than the sum of its parts. Successful leaders need to preserve the sense of living through events with the electorate and of sharing the same joys and woes. The pressures of the last year have seen Mr Blair becoming more distant from the rest of us.

Sometimes, in the edge of my political vision, I have the sense that the Prime Minister is disappearing. Too often, it is his Government colleagues who are making the news and he who provides the damage limitation, as he showed yesterday in a rather uncomfortable defence of Mr Mandelson. We see less of him where be is at his spontaneous best and more presidential mode of interviews and formal addresses

He has not yet forfeited that most precious of political commodities: instinctive trust. But be must be aware that it is vulnerable, and that without it, the noblest intentions turn swiftly to dust.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I really don't go round asking my Cabinet members bow they paid for their houses." Tony Blair. Prime Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The unexamined life is not worth living." Socrates. Greek philosopher



FOR THE time being. Peter huge loan from Geoffrey Robin-Mandelson is damaged goods. his arrogance and recklessness has done incalculable damage to the Government. And it isn't over yet.

But lessons can be learned. Honesty and humility would be he is uniquely qualified for: two good new resolutions for New Labour. Sunday Mirror

PETER MANDELSON had to resign from Tony Blair's Cabinet for unwisely accepting a though the big idea behind the

commitment shouldn't be sidelined for long. An early return to government is out of the question. But there is one role making sure the Millennium Dome is a roaring success when it opens a year from now. Sundau People

son, then keeping quiet about

it. But a man of his flair and

IT LOOKS increasingly as

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD The Sunday tabloids comment on Peter Mandelson's resignation

"Third Way" is to have no big idea beyond that of winning and retaining power through presentation. That the very architect of the strategy has himself crashed to earth is an

object lesson Mr Blair should take to beart. The Mail on Sunday

with the business of government. We would have hoped that Labour had learned the lessons of the John Major years, that when ministers rip each other part, the Government descends into chaos and

approaching, the PM should tell

his feuding ministers to get on

We expect better from this Government. The events of the IT WOULD be a tragedy if there past week have badly damwere any more victims of this aged confidence in its ability to News of the World

sorry affair. With a New Year deliver. So, new year, new start The Express on Sunday

> MAKE NO mistake, we have not seen the last of Mr M. Will be take us into Europe or pop up elsewhere on the political scene? Has he ruled out wanting to be the first mayor of London? Whatever it is, be will surely be a wiser, and bumbler, man when the moment comes. And that is no bad thing.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PHILLIP KNIGHTLEY



The author and Notting Hill resident takes issue with our coverage of his neighbourhood

NOTTING HILL Gate, where I have lived for the past 40 years, is a very different place than the one portrayed in The Independent during the Peter Mandelson affair. There may be a few stars of politics, stage, screen, radio, TV, the modelling and fashion world who have chosen Notting Hill - often in the hope of a quiet time - but there are also a lot of hard-working, ordinary people just getting on with their lives who are none too happy to see their neighbourhood described as "exclusive... chic,.. fashionable... trendy...'

We all came here because of pleasant, tree-lined streets, tasteful, understated architecture, not much traffic, good public transport, and - at the even before Lady Porter, Westminster City Council would give you a generous home loan with interest at 6.5 per cent fixed for all the 25-year period. and then offer you a grant or two to belp refurbish the place. Was this a suspect deal? Should I have registered it?

We stayed because the cosmopolitan nature of the area represented multi-cultural London at its best. There are restaurants of 17 different national cuisines within five minutes walk. The local junior school, Hallfield, counted 26 different nationalities among its pupils when my three kids were there - the broadest cultural mix in the country.

We even enjoyed the notoriety the area o*nc*e had – Christine Keeler, "Lucky" Gordon (I had a Christmas card for him from Jamaica just the other day), the Mangrove café in All Saints Road (the best flying fish in London), and the excitement of the biggest street carnival in Europe.

All right, everything in the area is now expensive. A house is going to cost you half a million, an ordinary drink at the Cohden - once a working men's club, now a chic members-only night-spot - is £4. But Notting Hill is not exclusive. It remains, as it has always done, an inclusive area, a real melting pot.

Moreover all things considered, we get on well with each other. As the kids at Hallfield sing every morning:

And the creat and the colour and the name don't matter,

When I needed a neighbour you were there. Precisely.

The cherry-flavoured way to perfect health

"WHY?" ENQUIRED my friend, examining the white package on my kitchen table, "are you stirring cherry-flavoured chicken sternum cartilage into your coffee?"

"I should have thought that was obvious," I replied tartly (health food always makes me irritable), "particularly to someone like yourself in the medical profession." My friend is a doctor. "Well, tell me anyway," he said. And when I got my breath back, I did.

I should explain that even mixed with finest Jamaican Blue Mountain, cherry-flavoured chicken sternum cartilage tastes so appalling that, for a minute or so after I'd swallowed it, my entire system shut down. Halfan hour later he had beard the whole sorry atory and wasn't im-pressed, but then that usually is the way with NHS doctors when it comes to alternative medicine.

For the last year I have been a slave, as they say, to arthritis. I can't play Chopin or Joplin anymore, my

ARNOLD

The allergist's room at the back of the shop looked less like a clinic than a fairground booth

fingers won't stretch that far. I can't run round the park because my trainers feel like horse shoes. Only my family and close friends know of my suffering for I am not one to complain. Nor do I believe in bur-

dening others with my problems unless, of course, they say how are you when I tell them in some detail about my condition.

To cut a long story short, I've tried everything - drugs, exercise, acupuncture, cod liver oil, prayer - no dice. It was my piano teacher who suggested that I might be allergic to something. She's so clever. She found me a whole bunch of tightfisted Mozart sonatas to play instead of my usual repertoire of waltzes and rags and I'm struggling on. Anyway, she told me about this marvellous allergy-testing clinic in Putney where all you do is eat nothing for 24 hours then go first thing in the morning without even cleaning your teeth so that there's no trace, even of toothpaste, in your system. I balked a little at the prospect of boarding a Number 22 bus with unbrushed teeth, but needs must and

I telephoned for an appointment. "Good as New," said the woman at the other end. "Is this the aller-

hand designer dress exchange," she replied. "The clinic's moved to Purley, but I'll give you the number." From where we live, Putney is a doddle; Purley is a schlepp. The good news was that I could clean my teeth. "We at the One Earth clinic prefer to test synogenistically with essential oils," explained Kadisha the Purley allergist, a dark, hand-some woman swathed in fringed shawls, beads and gangling bracelets. Her cell-like room at the back of a bealth shop looked less like a

her manner was professional. She strapped an electrode on to my left wrist, plugged the other end into what looked like a gas meter on the desk, opened a box containing 300 small glass phials and began. Inside each glass phial was the essential oil of a food substance which. via the electrode and the gas meter, registered a score between 1 and 10

clinic than a fairground booth where

you might get your fortune told. Still,

gy clinic?" I said. "No, it's a second- on a small screen. One signified a void, 10 meant okay, five indicated caution. For the record, I must eschew milk, wheat, ketchup, chocolate, cloves, red meat and red wine. I should go easy on eel, pineapple and pickled onion and everything else I can pig out on including monosodium glutamates, soya cheese and quark, whatever that is. If I suddenly get the urge to eat rump steak, said Kadisha pocketing

the £50 cheque I'd just given her for

her services, the poison would be

counter-balanced by a solution of

honey, cider vinegar and molasses.

She then wrote a long list of recommended bealth foods to which I was not allergic. All of them, surprisingly, were available in the shop at the front. They included Mrs Lepper's gluten-free millet pasta, Mrs Krimbla's fat-free Dutch fruit cake, a nasty-sounding soya icecream called Dreem Kreem which, said Kadisha smacking ber lips,

was absolutely delicious and, of

course, the famous cherry-flavoured chicken sternum cartilage to oil

Enough said. I bought everything on the list, including a home-made flap jack the size of a gym shoe. I ate it on Purley station waiting for the train. There was something curiously acrid about the taste and, come to think of it, the smell of that flap jack. Maybe it was a gym shoe. The man on the bench beside me looked at it hard, looked at me hard, then got up and moved to the other end of the platform. In the end I gave up the struggle and dropped it in the nearest bin where it lay on top of the sweep wrappers, beavy, inert and malodorous like a dead ferret. I promise you, compared to the chicken sternum cartilage that flap jack was fois gras and strawberries. "If I were you, I'd stick to asprins and cod liver oil for your arthritis," advised my doctor friend finishing his coffee. Maybe be's right - doctors sometimes are.

Can anyone keep peace between the Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo?

SO MUCH for General Winter, and the stillness that for a few frozen months, at least, was supposed to lie across the tormented land of Kosovo. These days, however, when Christians fight Muslims across the snowy hillsides of the southern Balkans, not even Christmas can halt the bloodshed. British and German troops may once have respected a truce of sorts in the trenches of Flanders, but in 1998. when Serbs and ethnic Albanians are in the field. Christmas Eve is when ceasefires collapse. And not only ceasefires. Perhaps the most important casualty of this violent Christmas weekend is the old notion of bow this dirty war might be

Unnoticed until now, over the subtly shifted. Previously there was no argument about the villain of the piece. This was Slobodan Milosevic's war. He had started it back in 1989 tragedy that would follow) by scrapping the autonomy Kosovo and its overwhelming Albanian majority had previously enjoyed, and even now, be retains the prime responsibility. His savage, utterly disproportionate crackdown on the ethnic Albanians last spring set the stage for a summer of fighting which would make refugees of a quarter of a million people, pit Russia against the West and ultimately have B-52s waiting, engines revving, on British airfields. Then came the October ceasefire agreement, providing for Serbian withdrawal, the start of political negotiations, and the despatch of 2,000 unarmed international observers to make sure everyone kept their word.

This time however no matter how much you detest the regime in Belgrade, matters are not so simple. The Kosovo Liberation Army is at least as much to blame for the collapse of the ceasefire. To be sure, the Serbs are overreacting: is a column of tanks really required to avenge the death of a single police-



RUPERT CORNWELL

One truth emerges from this violent Christmas: only a Western military presence can bring calm

past few weeks, its contours have for a fight. It has acquired new arms, above all anti-tank weapons to nullify the most potent asset of the Serb forces, and shows absolutely no interest in the political talks which tand with it the entire Balkan are supposed to start next month Bomb Milosevic, says the heart. But this time the head resists.

In truth, and despite every vow made by Western foreign ministers at meetings without number, Kosovo looks more like Bosnia with every passing day. The killing, admittedly, is nowhere near on the same scale. But even before half of them have even taken up their stations, the OSCE monitors are acquiring an uncanny resemblance to the unhappy men of Unprofor earlier in the decade, the Bosnian "peacekeepers" with no peace to keep. Yesterday, OSCE teams were sent to the village of Obranca, focal point of the latest fighting. How long, one wonders, before some of their number are taken hostage, or killed in the crossfire.

So what next? Conceivably, of course, this being the season of hope, good will, and irrational optimism, events might yet get us off the hook. Just maybe, after a decade of slaughter and barbarity, 1999 will prove to be the final year of this most terrible of the 20th century's Balkan wars. Maybe next year will at last see man? But the KLA, too, is spoiling the demise of the Milosevic regime,

brought down peaceably from within by the economic misery and international obloquy it has inflicted upon the Serbian nation. Maybe its successor will be more sensible and less nationalist, open to a reasonable accommodation with the Kosovan Albanians. Maybe too, sweet reason will also descend on the shoulders of these latter, despite the atrocities and humiliations beaped upon them hy Belgrade. And then again, 1999 may he when Saddam Hussein makes a state visit

In practical terms, the West faces the dilemma of dealing with a conflict in which the middle ground of political negotiation, freely entered into by both parties, is now scorched earth. Plainly, we cannot let the two sides simply fight it out. In the short term, this would probably lead to another cycle of Serbian repression, borrific media pictures and public clamour forcing Western haste, but to little lasting effect.

But if crackdown is unacceptable, so too - at least for now - is an independent Kosovo, which the Western chancelleries argue might tear Macedonia apart. For even autocrats cannot ignore the bodybag factor Before too long, the cost of enforcing control could prove too high even for the Serbs, and the Albanians who outnumber them nine to one in Kosovo would have their way. Thus the spectre of an inchoate "Greater Albania", which would further destabilise an already unstable region and perhaps drag Greece, Bulgaria and, worst of all, Turkey, into the fighting. In the long run, I have reluctantly come to believe, monoethnic states of this kind are the only bricks with which to build the new Balkans, Right now, however, there is barely a smaller Albania, let alone a greater one

But this violent Christmas has at least one merit: it has laid bare the harsh and central truth about Kosovo. Whatever is adjudged the best solution - whether to defy Balkan logic and attempt to main-



Ethnic Albanians flee from a Serbian attack near the town of Podujevo on Christmas Eve AP

tain an ethnically-mixed Kosovo somehow linked to Serbia, or to lay the ground for a new Albanian political entity in the southern Balkans - only a credible Western military presence will allow it to he put into practice. And we are not talking about unarmed observers, monitors or "verifiers", hut ground troops with all the hardware they need, in Kosovo for the long haul.

Kosovo, in short, will have to become another Bosnia. Not, we must ensure, in the sense of the hrutality and slaughter which preceded the settlement imposed by the Americans at Dayton, but in becoming a de facto Western protectorate as

guise of another Dayton. Ideally, of course, the instigators of this accord would be European statesmen, and the troops who make it stick should be European troops. But Kosovo has come too soon for Europe, whatever the agreement on a future European defence identity between Britain

and France. The prime mover will have to be Nato, in other words the Americans. The United States will not like it, no more than it liked the prospect of its ground troops committed to Bosnia - and perhaps even less, for in Bosnia a presence which was originally meant to last six months has

Bosnia now is, installed under the now become open-ended. For the and its allies to meet some predetermined artificial deadline to withdraw, Washington knows full well." would simply invite disaster.

And so in Kosovo too. But a permanent military presence there would almost certainly prove as effective as it has in Bosnia, with remarkably little loss of life. It would guarantee the essentials: the Kosovo Albanians would be freed from the threat of Serbian oppression and violence; the Serbs would be assured of access to their holy sites, political and religious. Above all, it would huy time, to wait out Sloboda

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PANDORA

AFTER READING vesterday's newspapers, Pandora felt great sympathy for Peter Mandelson. Not because of the predictable barrage of personal criticism and snide satire from his enemies which Mandy can certainly cope with, hnt because of the devastating tributes from his friends. How painful for him to read Andrew Rawnsley's glowing but tragically out-of-synch account of Mandelson's political reputation's "most remarkable reconstruction" in The Observer, whose Life magazine had obviously gone to press before the loan story broke. Next was dear friend Robert Harris, the columnist and author, performing acts of Herculean hyperbole on his behalf: "To call what he [Mandelson] did 'sleaze' ... is to murder the English language" and "sooner government by people like him than government by skinheads". Finally, Derek Draper's bilious attempt in the Mail on Sunday to make Mandy seem ordinary. "Here I am," he quotes Mandelson as saying, "supposedly the world's greatest political communicator and I'm saving up trips to the supermarket to make my life more interesting." Oh dear.

JOHN BIRT'S visit tn tbe Groucho Club a few nights

announced sternly on Christmas

before Christmas caused a stir in the club originally founded as a writers' and publishers' hideout, now the favourite watering hale of television stars and independent producers, from Lenny Henry to Stephen Fry to Vic & Bob. The BBC boss was a guest of his administrative assistant Katie Kay, a Groucho member, who settled him into a quiet corner table in the upstairs bar. "It seems very reasonable," the notoriously cost-conscious Birt told Kay later as she paid their bill. When this overheard remark was circulated later, a number of members' eyebrows were raised. The Groucho's cocktails are excellent, but nnbody before ever called them inexpensive.

balloon flight to proceed

over its territory, China

AFTER BOWING to Tony Blair and Sir Edward Heath's appeals to allow the Branson

Eve that it would ban any more round-the-world balloons from crossing its borders. This is bad news for Branson, and the competing Cable and Wireless. Breitling Orbiter 3 and Spirit of Peace balloon teams, since virtually all northern hemisphere global balloon routes must cross over China. However, Pandora hears that at least three other

teams are planning a southern hemisphere circumnavigation for next summer in the race to be the first to blow around the globe. THE PANDORA

> Prize for the most surprisingly witty Christmas card goes to the National Audit Office. Printed to ap**pea**r like a genuine NOA report on the "Ministry of Merriment". the card

documents the

"cost over-runs.

delays and irregularities in the production of Christmas presents". An accompanying "press release" reports: "Asked to account for 500,000 X-rated imported videos, Santa said, 'I know it looks bad, but at least I did nbtain three quotes before porchase, as previously recommended by the NAO'."

THE MOST eagerly awaited Western film for years is about to open in America - a film that was originally the brainchild of the late Sam Pekinpah - and its unlikely director is Englishman Stephen Frears (pictured). Over the past weekend, a storm of publicity has appeared about The Hi-Lo Country, a tale of two oldfashioned cowboys in modern New Mexico, and Frears, the north London resident whose credits include My Beautiful Launderette. Prick Up Your Ears, Dangerous Liaisons and The Grifters. Frears told The New York Times: "I had to literally learn everything... Western films are sort of half mythology. half what it was like in the West." He toured New Mexico for weeks before shooting began and, on the set, confesses to often thinking of Clint Eastwood, "What would Clint do now?" he asked his assistant.

117年15月12日で入屋

Sir Francis McLean

12th Army Group liberated Luxembourg in September 1944 Francis McLean, the 40-year-old Chief Engineer of the Psychological Warfare Division of the Supreme Headquarters. Allied Expeditionary Force (PWD Shaef), went there from Paris to make sure that the Allies would be able to use Radio Luxemhourg's powerful transmitter for psychological warfare against the German army, still only a few miles away. McLean found that the studios in the centre of the city were in full working order. But, before retreating, the Germans had taken care to immobilise the station by firing pistol shots through all the valves of the 120-kilowatt transmitter at Junglinster, some 12 miles outside the capital.

Fortunately an unsung Luxembourg hero, W. Scholtes, the chief engineer at Junglinster, happened to know that a complete set of reserve valves was held at a nearby post office. McLean soon had Radio Luxembourg ready for service again on its wavelength of 1295m.

A mixed military and civilian team of amateur American psychological warriors attached to 12th Army Group were the first programme men on the scene. They belonged to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of in Italy, Switzerland, France, the CIA. An experienced Anglo-American group was sent to Luxembourg to hroadcast on behalf of PWD Shaef - shortly afterwards augmented by a strong contingent from the BBC's European Service.

The OSS men took the line that they had saved the station and they resented being overshadowed by professional broadcasters who had not. Moreover they wanted to start a purely American enterprise, which they called "Operation Annie", using the transmitter for "black" propaganda purporting to come from dissidents within Germany. The PWD Shaef people, especially the British, considered that this scheme would endanger the credibility of the Allies' open or "white" broadcasts.

One of the OSS commanders asked McLean whether it would be possible to use the Junglinster transmitter on a different wavelength during the night after Radio Luxembourg had closed down. By when could they know wbether it was technically feasible and bow long would it take to alter the wavelength each time?

Within three days McLean prorided the answers. It could be done war correspondents. He reactivat-

A FEW days after the American and the wavelength change would only take 20 minutes. Sn "Operation Annie" went into action. At midnight an oboe signature tune introduced a strong new station calling itself Radio Twelve Twelve (the changed wavelength) to broadcast until 5.30am. It ran until the end of hostilities. McLean's solution pleased the OSS men and relieved the PWD Shaef contingent at Luxembourg - which I was shortly to join - of the pressure to carry "black" transmissions alongside straightforward ones. McLean himself had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done in three days what would take BBC engineers by normal procedures many weeks to achieve. Whether Radio Twelve Twelve deceived the German authorities or shortened the war by

> McLean, who was an accomplished linguist, brought to his Shaef task substantial experience of collaboration with European engineers. After graduating from Birmingham University he joined Western Electric and worked for three years on the design of high-power radio transmitters before being transferred to IT&T's Research Laboratories in Paris. From 1928 to 1932 he was involved in designing highpower equipment for both hroadcasting and telephooe transmission

a single minute is another matter.

Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In 1930 he married Dorothy Blackstaffe. They had known each other since their early teens.

On their return to England McLean's design work was particularly concerned with the BBC's short- and medium-wave transmitter equipment and in 1937 he joined the corporation's Station Design and Installation Department as head of the radio section. He was temporarily sent in 1938-39 to the Cavendish and Liverpool lahoratories to help on problems connected with the atom-splitter cyclotron. From 1939 to 1943 he was deeply involved in the BBC's wartime expansion of short-wave transmissions and monitoring stations.

He also designed transmitters for the War Reporting Unit, and in 1943 was seconded to the Psychological Warfare Division of Shaef as Chief Engineer. In the planning of "Overlord" be made preparations for mohile transmitters as well as for recommissioning European radio stations. In August 1944 he was the first BBC man to enter Paris after its liberation, even ahead of the



McLean, left, in 1944, demonstrating bis separation of wavelengths between Radio Luxembonrg and the 'black' Radio Twelve Twelve. With him are, standing from left, Leonard Miall, Lt-Col S.R. Rosenblum, Lindley Fraser (later Head of the BBC German Service), Ralpb Poston (later Director of Broadcasting, Palestine), Noel Newsome (BBC Director of European Broadcasts) and Etienne Amyot (later BBC Third Programme planner); and, sitting, Patrick Gordon Walker (later Foreign Secretary) and Robin Gordon Walker

Mel Fisher

ed various French transmitters hefore moving on to Luxembourg. Later in the war be recommissioned transmitters in Leipzig, Hamburg and other captured German cities, putting to good use the information on the location of spare valves be had gathered at Junglinster.

After the war McLean's career was a steady climb up the ladder of the BBC engineering directorate to the very top. Though necessarily Interested in programmes his chief concern and fascination was always in technical developments. He retained his international connections, iourneving in 1946 to Singapore to plan the BBC's Far East Relay Station, and later to the Indian subcontinent as an adviser to Radio Pakistan. From 1952 be led the BBC delegations to many international

conferences on channel allocation, frequency modulation (FM), stereo and, above all, colour television, As early as 1953, McLean read a

paper to the British Association on The Application of Colour to Television Broadcasting". In 1966 be delivered a Faraday Lecture on the same subject to large audiences in 23 cities in the United Kingdom and to one in Brussels, where be spoke in French. The same year be was invited to give the Granada lecture at Guildhall on telecommunications in the next 10 years. This FTV gesture represented the first thaw in the cold war between the BBC and its commercial competitor.

McLean recognised that the principal technical problems of televisioo at that time were to define and achieve good colour, to plan the new mission which, like NTSC, was re-

625-line UHF network (first used in 1964 for BBC2) so as to permit the eventual closure of the original 405line VHF network, and to make possible the unattended operation of transmitters and studio equipment. He played a leading role in solving all of them.

By the time McLean became Director of Engineering in 1963 the introduction of colour television was high on the broadcasting agenda. One difficulty was the absence of an internationally agreed system. The Americans bad established NTSC the initials of the National Television Systems Committee, though cynics said the letters could equally stand for Never Twice the Same Colour. The French come along with SECAM, a different system of colour transceivable on hlack-and-white sets, but claimed certain advantages over it. The rival merits of NTSC and SECAM were argued at many international forums, with McLean duced very acceptable white wine firmly on the side of NTSC. Then the Germans developed PAL, hasically NTSC but with certain additional features. This was the system much of Western Europe eventually adopted.

The world's colour television was then split three ways, with Canada. the United States and much of Latin America, plus Japan, committed to NTSC; half of Europe, including Britain and Germany and much of the Commonwealth committed to PAL; and France. the Communist bloc and some others committed to SECAM, threatening to make the ready international exchange of staffe (one son, one daughter);

nately such a fate was avoided by the timely BBC invention of the electronic standards converter.

Sir Francis McLean (he was knighted in 1967) described this sophisticated equipment as "the result of both inspiration and hard work the secret of engineering development". It converted systems as well as standards, and was thus able in 1968 to provide European television with an Olympic Games service of PAL or SECAM colour pictures on the 625-line 50-field standard which originated in Mexico from NTSC cameras working on the 525-line 60field standard. The absence of internationally agreed system and standards had ceased to matter.

McLean gave the greatest encouragement to design development and research. He bad a first-class hrain and probably made a greater contribution to the BBC than any previous Director of Engineering. He was a stern but fair boss who disliked privilege and grumbled when he was accorded VIP treatment.

After his retirement from the BBC in 1968 he became the technical director of a company set up by ICI and CBS to develop a system of television recording and in 1972 he chaired a Royal Commission on FM Broadcasting in Australia. His report was accepted and implemented by the Australian government. From 1961 to 1972 he was Chairman of the BSI Telecommunications Standards Committee.

McLean's retirement also changed his life style. He and his wife moved to Newbury. Alongside his professional work he spent 10 years raising sheep on a small farm. He became the President of the Newbury District Field Club, a century old society concerned with local history and the like. In 1978 they moved to nearby Woolton Hill, where McLean in his eighties produced very acceptable white wine a lively interest in the latest developments in broadcasting and telecommunications.

LEONARD MIALL

Francis Charles McLean, broadcasting engineer: born 6 November 1904; Chief Engineer, Psychological Warfare Division, Shaef 1943-45; MBE 1945, CBE 1953: Deputy Chief Engineer, BBC 1952-60. Deputy Director of Engineering 1960-63, Director of Engineering 1963-68; Kt 1967; married 1930 Dorothy Blackprogrammes impossible. Fortu- died 19 December 1998.

Tinders, keepers'

MEL FISHER was an opportunist and his long-suffering investors who embodied the dictum "Finders, keepers". Initially equipped only with flippers and goggles, the onetime chicken farmer recovered hundreds of thousands of gold and

from Spanish shipwrecks in the waters off Florida. For years he doggedly hunted the cargo of a single treasure-packed galleon, the Nuestrn Seriora de Atocha, which sank in 1622 near the Florida Keys. When he and his son Kane found the wreck in 1985, they recovered treasure worth \$400m

and as a result Fisher, his family

silver coins, jewellery and ingots

became millionaires. In the murky world of treasure

hunters, Fisher was a hero, a fixture of Key West who could often be found - wearing a trademark gold doubloon around his neck - in dockside bars, talking long into the night ahout his undersea adventures. When asked why he had chosen his risky and uncertain trade, he said, "For the fun, the romance and the adventure." While he searched for treasure he liked to repeat bopefully, "Today is the day."

But Fisher's success in discovering treasure in an era when salvage

which held salvagers' work to be in the public interest, did not endear him to environmentalists, historians and archaeologists. Their efforts to persuade US authorities to control the salvage trade eventually produced the 1987 Abandoned Shipwreck Act, which put an end to admiralty

miles of the coastline to the states. Fisher spent much of his time and money in court, fending off efforts to "take his treasure", as he put it, but the new laws made his husiness untenable and, by June 1998, of thou-

JUST AS with government ministers, if you want to insult a bishop, you call

him "trendy". Many in the church

leadership, and those in the Vatican

in particular, remain suspicious of

new ideas, but many clergymen - in

their desire to stay (as they say)

"alongside" people and in their drive

to keep numbers up - are keen

judges of new shifts in popular culture

and aspiration. They try to keep

abreast of the latest consumer unen-

durables and the soaps' plot-lines,

like diligent parents welcoming their

daughter's new boyfriend into the

house, partly hecause they love her

and partly because they're afraid

for Christmas. After years of whinge-

ing, the Church is beginning to look at

Christmas like everybody else. First,

a couple of recent examples: Sunday

trading and the National Lottery. In

both cases, a significant proportion of

the Church fought hard against these

developments; in both cases, the moral

arguments seemed, at first, to be all

on the Church's side: it was bad for

people to gamble, it was bad for them

to have no let-up from commercial

pressures, But, in both cases, the

Church lost. The absolute morality

badn't changed igambling and a

seven-day working week are still bad),

and there were those who thought the

Church ought simply to stick to its prin-

ciples whatever the cost in terms of

unpopularity. marginalisation and

ridicule. But to argue thus was to mis-

understand the Church's motivation

Now they are doing the same thing

she'll flounce out if they don't.

law and conveyed the rights to

wrecks discovered within three

was based on British admiralty law, sands of known wrecks, fewer than American dream and heing able to 20 were under salvage permit. About balf of those were Fisher's.

Mel Fisher was born in 1922, hundreds of miles from the sea, in Gary, Indiana, and was trained as a hydraulic engineer at Alabama University. However, he turned his attention to poultry farming in California, and then went on to open a skindiving shop in Redondo Beach. He began diving for bounty, and, on discovering there was little to be had off the California coast, moved his family to Florida and

"What Mel lived on was that selling counterfeit gold coins at his

Whose Christmas is it anyway?

actually fulfil it. He let nothing stand in his way," said Pat Clyne, Fisher's spokesman at the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum in Key West. However, his lust for adventure came at a price. In 1975, his son Dirk drowned hunting treasure inside a ship just days after discovering the first signs of the Atocha wreck. It took the Fisher clan another decade to find the "mother lode" of

Fisher never strayed far from conhecame a serious treasure hunter. troversy. Last month he admitted

gold and silver in the Atocha cargo

that would be their greatest find.

gift shop in Key West, and agreed to repay to purchasers the prices of the coins - from \$2,500 to \$10,000 - which had been sold on the understanding that they were from a 1733 Spanish fleet that went aground off the Keys. In a negotiated plea, Fisher pledged that his company would sell only coins recovered from shipwrecks to which it had salvage rights.

EDWARD HELMORE

Mel Fisher, treasure hunter: born Gary, Indiana 1922: married (three sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Key West, Florida 19 December 1998.

GAZETTE

President, 1856; Philip Wil-

BIRTHDAYS King Birendra of Nepal, 53; Mr Intikhab Alam, cricketer, 57; Mr Terry Bnicher, foottialler, 40; Sir Ellis Clarke. former President, Trinidad and Tobago, 81; Major Madeleine Craggs, Registrar, General Osteopathic Council, 53; Mr Thomas Could VC, 84; Mr Max astings, Editor, The Evening Standard, 53; Lord Hattersley, former government minister, 66; Mr Noel Johnson, actor, 82; Mr Nigel Kennedy, violinist, 42; Mrs Frances Morrell, former leader, Ilea, 61; Sir Patrick O'Connor, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 84; Mrs Bridget Prentice MP, 46; Mr Simon Raven, writer, 71; Mrs Joan Ruddock MP, 55; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 64; The Right Rev William Westwood, former Bishop of Peterborough, 73.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Archibald Geikie. geologist, 1835; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th US

soo Steer, artist, 1860; Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, astronomer, 1882; St John Greer Ervine, playwright and critic, 1883; Roger Huntington Sessions, composer, 1896. Deaths: St Francis de Sales, 1622; Queen Mary II (of William and Mary), 1694; Rob Roy (Robert Macgregor), clan chief, 1734; Thomas **Babington Macaulay, first** Baron Macaulay, author and statesman, 1859; Thomas Creswick, painter, 1869; George Robert Gissing, novelist, 1903; Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, engineer, 1923; Maurice Joseph Ravel, composer, 1937; Theodore Herman Albert Dreiser, novelist, 1945; Victor Emmanuel III. former King of Italy, 1947; Jack Lovelock, athlete and surgeon, killed 1949; Paul Hindemith, composer, 1963; Max (Maximilian) Raoul Steiner, film music composer, 1971; Sam Peckinpah, film director, 1984. On this day: Westminster Abbey was dedicated, 1065; in the United States, the first patent for chewing gum was issued.

the Tay Bridge in Scotland collapsed, taking with it a train, including 75 passengers and crew, 1879; Messina, Sicily, was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake when over 150,000 lives were lost, 1908: the Irish Free State became the Republic of Ireland, 1937. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony of Lerins, The Holy Innocents (Childermas) and St Theodore the Sanctified

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "The Christmas Story in English Medieval Embroidery", 2pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st **Battalion Coldstream Guards** mounts the Queen's Guard, at Backingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

PAUL HANDLEY

At last, it seems the Church may be catching up with what ordinary people have always known about the way to celebrate the birth of Christ

Basil Hume, George Carey, the Methodist President, the Scottish Moderator and all that lot are genuinely concerned for the well-being of the whole of the British people, for whom they feel a degree of responsibility. Like diligent parents, they act whenever they see something approaching that might harm their people. The thing is, in this country, at least, church leaders have very little power. This is a vital point to grasp if one wants to understand the dynamics of spiritual politics: the desire to protect is coupled with the lack of the means to do so.

Thus, when people opt for a potentially harmful innovation, the leaders of the mainstream churches first try to argue it away. If they fail, they cannot go off in a sulk - reassuring them-

the majority, they have to work with the choices that majority makes. This is an uncomfortable position to be in; but what was essence of the Incarnation if it wasn't God making the best of a bad job? And just imagine the alternative: a priesthood with political power. In the theocracy that would emerge, the object to be protected would cease to he the people, and be-come instead the beliefs in which the priesthood's power resides. Remember the Inquisition? Not for nothing was God incarnated as a helpless baby.

And so to Christmas. What is happening here is that the democratising process is being applied to the stuff of Christianity itself, and, once again, the Church is powerless to stop it. In the past, the divines had worked out a proper shape for Christmas: a preparatory period of abstinence and reflection on the four last things, death, judgement, heaven and hell just to get people in the right mood for the festivities, the right mood being one of sober joy, awe, humility and prayerfulness. The post-Christmas period was interspersed with commemorahons that reinforced the message: the feast of the holy innocents and the stoning of the first martyr. When the priesthood was powerful enough to set the trend, this was thought an appropriate response to the glorious mystery of the incarnation.

Too earnest for us, though, and so the whole business has been turned on its head. The celebrations and fesselves that, well, at least they and their tivities start long before Christmas small band of followers are going to re- Day, and the period for sober reflecfor opposing change in the first place. main pure. If they want to shok with tion, if there has to be one, has

attached itself to the doldrums between Christmas and New Year (though not. as yet, to New Year's Eve itself).

And what's this? Christian professionals are starting to appear more relaxed. Once again, the movement began with the parish clergy, for whom December is now hooked out with carol services and Christingles, and has extended up the hierarchy. To judge how far it has gone one has to look for signs of omission: it will be some time yet before you hear sermons in praise of unbridled commercialism, but the time may come. The Archbishop of York may have begun the process by cootrasting, in a newspaper sermonette, the humility of the first nativity not with the glitz of Christmas consumerism but with . . the Millennium Dome - the kind of move which is known in PR circles as a "swerve". And instead of dwelling on the things lost - patience, anticipation. reflection - our church leaders praise elements of the "new" Christmas: the extension of generosity, bospitality, charity, family responsibility and overall cheerfulness.

Yes, this is a sign of the Church's weakness, and its inability to order even its own business; but thank goodness for it. What it really means is that, perforce, our spiritual guardians are having to acknowledge the innate moral robustness and good sense of the ordinary people. It was to these people, after all, that Jesus

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1869; the centre portion of

My last junk food binge drove me to crispbread

I DECIDED to clean out the fridge supermarket with her next time the other day. We don't usually clean out our fridge. We just box it up every four or five years and send it off to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta with a note to help themselves to anything that looks scientifically promising. But we hadn't seen one of the cats for a few days and and packets of Ryvita. I had a vague recollection of having glimpsed something furry on the bottom shelf towards the back - turned out to be a large

piece of Gorgonzola. So there I was, down on my knees unwrapping pieces of foil and peering cautiously into Tupperware containers, when I came across an interesting product called a breakfast pizza. I examined it with a kind of rueful fondness, as you might regard an old photograph of yourself dressed in clothes that you cannot believe you ever thought were stylish. The hreakfast pizza, you see, represented the last surviving relic of a bout of very serious retail foolishness on my part.

Some weeks ago I announced to my wife that I was going to the

she went because the stuff she kept bringing home was - how can I put this? - not fully in the spirit of American eating. Here we were living in a paradise of junk food - the country that gave the world cheese in a spray can and she kept bringing home healthy stuff like fresh hroccoli

It was because she was English, of course. She didn't really understand the rich, unrivalled possibilities for greasiness and goo that the American diet offers. I longed for artificial bacon hits, melted cheese in a shade of yellow unknown to nature, and creamy chocolate fillings, sometimes all in the same product. I wanted food that squirts when you hite into it or plops onto your shirt front in such gross quantities that you have to rise carefully from the table and limbo over to the sink to clean yourself up.

So I accompanied her to the supermarket and while she was off squeezing melons and pricing shiitake [Japanese oak log] mushrooms, I made for the junk

food section - which was essentially all the rest of the store. Well, it was heaven.

The breakfast cereals alone could have occupied me for most of the afternoon. There must have been 200 types, and I am not exaggerating. Every possible substance that could be dried, puffed and sugar coated was there. The most immediately arresting was Cookie Crisp, which tried to pretend it was a nutritious breakfast hut was really just chocolate chip cookies that you put in a bowl and ate with milk. Brilliant!

Also of note were cereals called Peanut Butter Crunch, Cinnamon Mini Buns, Count Chocula ("with Monster Marshmallows"), and a particularly hardcore offering called Cookie Blast Oat Meal, which contained four kinds of cookies. I grahbed one of each of the cereals and two of the oatmeal - how often I've said that you shouldn't start a day without a big steaming bowl of cookies and sprinted with them back

to the trolley. "What's that?" my wife asked



in the special tone of voice with which she often addresses me in retail establishments.

I didn't have time to explain. "Breakfast for the next six months." I panted as I dashed past, "And don't even think about putting any of it back and getting

I had no idea how the market for junk food had proliferated. Everywhere I turned I was confronted with foods guaranteed to make you waddle, most of which were entirely new to me jelly creme pies, moon pies, pecan spinwheels, peach mellos,

root beer buttons, chocolate fudge devil dogs and a whipped marshmallow sandwich spread called Fluff, which came in a tub large enough to bath a baby in.

You really cannot helieve the bounteous variety of nonnutritious foods available to the American supermarket shopper these days, or the quantities in which they are consumed. I recently read that the average American eats 17.8lbs of pretzels

Aisle seven ("Food for the Seriously Obese") was especially productive. It had a whole section devoted exclusively to a product called Toaster Pastries, which included, among much else, eight different types of toaster strudel. And what exactly is toaster strudei? Who cares? It was coated in sugar and looked

drippy. I grabbed an armioad. I admit I got a little carried away - but there was so much,

and I had been away so long. It was the breakfast pizza that finally made my wife snap. She looked at the box and said: "No!"

'I beg your pardon, my sweet?" "You are not hringing home

something called breakfast pizza. I will let you have" - she reached into the trolley for some specimen samples - "root beer buttons and toaster strudel and..." She lifted out a packet that she hadn't noticed before.

"What's this?" I looked over her shoulder. "Microwave pancakes," I said. "Microwave pancakes!" she repeated, but with less

enthusiasm. "Isn't science wonderful?" "You're going to eat it all," she went on. "Every bit of everything that you don't put back on the shelves now. You do understand that, don't you?"

"Of course," I said in my sincerest voice.

And do you know she actually made me eat it. I spent weeks working my way through a symphony of American junk food, and it was all awful. Every bit of it. I don't know whether American junk food has got worse, or whether my taste buds have matured, hnt even the

disgustingly sickly.

treats I'd grown up with now seemed discouragingly pallid or

breakfast pizza. I tried it three or four times, baked it in the oven, zapped it with microwaves, and once in desperation, served it with a side of marshmallow Fluff, hut it never rose beyond a kind of limp, chewy listlessness. Eventually I gave up altogether and hid the box in the Tupperware graveyard on the

bottom shelf of the fridge. Which is why, when I came across it again the other day, I regarded it with mixed feelings. I started to chuck it out, then hesitated and opened the lid. It didn't smell bad - I expect it was pumped so full of chemicals that there wasn't any room for bacteria – and I thought about keeping it a while longer as a reminder of my folly, hut in the end I discarded it. And then, feeling peckish, I went off to the larder to see if I couldn't find a nice plain piece of Ryvita and maybe a stick of celery.

Extracted from Notes from a Big Country'. Doubleday, £16.99. From all major book shops or by mail order from 01624 675137.

A very independent traveller



Sarah with her daughter, Hannah: 'I wasn't afraid for her - not ever'

Philip Meech

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Last year, when most 16-year-olds were quarrelling with their parents about staying out at night, Hannah Chapman was travelling Europe, alone, armed only with a round-Europe rail ticket, a BT card and nearly £200. She's now back in London, working for her A-levels. Her mother Sarah and step-father Bill paid for the ticket, but the bigger gift was their trust.

he felt so limited by school, by us, by her little north London world. She was so angry that there were times when, frankly, the thought of Hannah going away seemed wonderful. When she said, almost as a threat, that she wanted to travel, we said: "Yes, just do it." Before I bought the ticket I had to come to terms with the fact that she would be alone, that dreadful things her in north London – why is it more likely in Europe?

I wasn't afraid for her - not ever. Hannah has always been able to look after herself. When her father and I broke up I think she decided: "No one is ever going to hurt me." She has the strongest sense of selfpreservation of anyone that age I know. It would be a hrave person Hannah who would mess with her. On her fourth hirthday she was given a dress. She wore it once and said she would never wear a dress again. She was determined that there was nothing a boy could do that she couldn't do. When she learned to play football she did it well enough to be the first girl, ever, to play for the FA. People ask if I didn't think twice about letting a 16-year-old travel alone across Europe. I say: "Not any 16-year-old, just this one."

Both Bill (her stepfather) and I had travelled alone, which is why we encouraged her to do it. Part of the pleasure is the opportunity to be selfish, to go where you want, when you want. I knew she would meet people with ease and she is used to avelling without plans. On family holidays we never book hotels in

advance. We just go. We had no idea where she was going but she telephoned frequently

and you could tell by her voice that sleep for three days, then I would she was excited and engaged and

very much alive. eight days. That was the only time worried. I gave myself a time limit. If she hadn't rung, I suppose I would have had to go to Prague, which is the last place she phoned from, and try to trace her. But then she phoned and on impulse we could happen to her, but that you covered that she had been arresthave to take a leap of faith. After all, ed in Berlin and missed the train. lish: "I think you should get out of So we drove there. Hannah just wandered up and said "hello" as though it was as normal as could be that we Milan when I had to walk to the should be there to meet her.

I don't know how much she has told me about her journey and I don't in Berlin. know if I want to know. She has survived. That is enough.

e didn't discuss it and I didn't plan it. I left thinking: Everything is unknown, I'll just see what happens next." After three days in Amsterdam with friends I headed for Switzerland, arriving at the border about 9.30pm. It looked like a hig town but everything was closed so I went hack to the station.

I was walking past this zoo and I could see the light reflecting off the animals' eyes. There was no sound and I could feel the hairs rise on the back of my neck. I thought: "God: I'm by myself." So I phoned home and then took a train which stopped in Basle at 3am where I sat on a bench for the rest of the night chatting with this guy. That was my first night alone. It was a hit over-

I wanted to pack in as much as I could, so sometimes I went without

sleep on the train or in a park. It was strange. You are there by yourself. There was one long gap of about Nowhere to stay, no one you know, you don't know the place, everything is down to you: good or bad. You are in complete control. There was an overpowering sense of freedom. I loved it. I had no responsibility to be anyone but myself.

There were times when I felt thought it would be nice to meet her intimidated. Like when I was with in Calais. When we got there we dis-some Albanians in a park and a man came over and said to me, in Engsomething dreadful could happen to She was on her way to Amsterdam. here. Don't follow me, but leave as soon as you can." Or when I go flashed on the train, or at 3am in station past prostitutes sitting on the tops of cars, or when I got arrested

But I went into things with an open, positive attitude. I expected to get the same back and I did. I think being young was a protection in a way. People wanted to show me everything, they cooked me meals, they took me out. And the relation ships you make are so intimate. You become best friends for a night - the best nights of your life - and then you

You have to keep your eyes open hut you can tell in the first 10 minutes if someone is seriously dodgy. The choices you make affect yoo so you have to be strong with yourself and if things get dodgy, run! As long as you are confident, and

able to communicate, you're made. When I arrived back in Amsterdam I dumped my bag, went to a café and rang home. When I heard they were waiting for me, I gave my joint to someone and hopped and skipped to the station. Man, I had the roughest time I've ever had - it was fantastic. I am so grateful to my parents. I'm so glad that they said

Poems, broken glass lay the ghost of pain

AMBER ... THAT's not her real name. It's the name my daughter chose when we were both interviewed by a national paper. The subject was the poetry I wrote about her teenage years of illness, a sort of love affair with dying in the form of anorexia.

It had seemed natural to write them at thought you knew better than anyone else the time - not poems, but jottings in a private notebook, small splinters of anger and pain. I'm a writer, writing is the way I trust myself to think best. As she pulled out of that first crisis I read through the notes and saw they could be poems. Maybe that way it would make sense. We'd sat in waiting rooms with other families in the same confusion, and tried to talk about the weather Put an adolescent's problem in a family and everyone starts asking who to hlame. Parents look at themselves - and each other - and the question is there. I couldn't speak for other families, but maybe putting it in print, one father's view, would help others speak out in their way.

I checked the poems with my daughter, Yes, she said go ahead: that's an accurate record, disturbing but true. When I've read them in public, there has always been someone who comes up afterwards. Often it's not anorexia that has touched their family, hut some other problem or addiction. What they recognise is the moment when you look into the eyes of the child you Then I had a phooe call saying that my

While his daughter went through the suicidal hell of disordered eating, Philip Gross made jottings that were to become poems

in the world, and something else looks out. I think of the siege scenario: the hostage appears at a window, mouthing words that don't sound like their own, in a flat voice. and you have to guess there's someone just behind them with a gun. You can call in the marksmen, you can argue, rage or cry, and the child might suffer, but the illness, the obsession or addiction, will look back at you with no feeling in its eyes.

So there she was: Amber, for her own protection. It was her life and people had questions to ask, quite rightly, what I was doing with it? I couldn't speak for her. Did she want to speak for herself? Yes, cautiously, she did. She had a new life now, as a student in another city. Could we do it without having her face or name exposed? In one photograph she appeared with back to camera, at a window.

How had we got here? As a poet, you expect to be answerable to a handful of people committed to reading slowly, more than once, weighing each word for what's in it.

book, The Wasting Game, had been short- is something slightly other. Thankfully. listed for the Whithread Prize, and there were people from the press and the radio asking for interviews.

It was the anorexia poems that they wanted to talk about. The book contains other things, four years of a life with a first visit to my father's birthplace, Estonia, and the delicate negotiations of a love affair. I wanted the book to be judged on all of it evidence that poetry isn't just a word game, that it can help us live our lives, that it's some use. But the title sequence was the part, I knew, that might be news.

Later, reading our words in print and hearing ourselves on the radio was like looking into a mirror Yes, that's us, hut ... We had been sensitively handled. It wasn't a distorting mirror - not like the mirrors which menace an anorexic's life, showing her something horrible and hloated. (Never, never think that it's to do with vanity.) Nor was it the equally distorted mirror of the advert and the TV screen which tells girls what they should look like. No. it was us, but even an accurate reflection

So she became Amber. Like a good novel we could be true but not utterly factual. Because there's no such girl as Amber, I can confess a small crime that says something for our family, something not in the book. Years on, we were driving on the motorway and we glimpsed the tower of the hospital where she spent some dreadful time. One day, she said, I should go back. We looked at each other. Why not now?

At the gate was barbed wire; inside a demolition site. We trespassed into empty wards where every weekend visit had been news of someone's running away or suicide attempt or self-harm. It all came back: the awful unyieldingness of it. I had never known that something could be terrifying. and yet tedious at the same time.

Faced with those devious, stubborn and deadly obsessions, day in, day out, the system and the staff had to become as dogged as the illness itself. We had to try still existed and was not quite crushed. It did, but it was hard to trust it then.



Philip Gross Christopher Jones

The poems in the book hardly touch this. For one thing, we had to be grateful to the system that medically saved our daughter's life. But standing in that gutted ward she to imagine that our daughter's free spirit and I looked at each other and realised that each of us wanted to shout to scream. We did. There was the therapy room where our Bloodaxe Books. £6.95.

family had been diagnosed from behind the two-way mirror, and there was a leap in my heart when I saw what someone had already done. The mirror, thick plate glass, was cracked from side to side.

It makes little difference that we broke two more panes. It was an exorcism, not as precise as a poem, maybe, but ... What stopped my hreath was when my daughter took a felt pen and signed her piece of damage, with her own name. Not "Amber", though that's the one we'll use, for this:

'I'm fat, look fat...'

Yes and the moon's made of cheese, that chunk she won't touch in the fridge dried, creviced, sweating in its cold like someone with a killing fever. Half a scrape-of-Marmite sandwich, last night's pushed-aside potatoes greying like a tramp's teeth, crusts, crumbs are a danger to her, so much orbiting space junk that's weightless for only so long. Burn it up on re-rentry, burn it, burn it. So she trains with weights, she jogs, she runs as if the sky were falling. The Wasting Game by Philip Gross.

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Triumphs amid the disasters

THE YEAR IN TELEVISION

GERARD GILBERT

They were triumphant Delia Smith, Carol Smillie, Jeremy Clarkson, Caroline Ahearne, Dame Thora Hird.

They were not Winston, Ainsley Harriott, Pauline Quirke...

Pauline Quirke?

The Birds of a Feather sitcom actress, boosted no doubt hy critical raves for her role in The Sculptress, tried "doing a David Jason" and crossing over into tion of John McGahern's a BBC1 police drama, Mnisie

Not unless you like people who go round shouting all the time.

Other dramas that disappointed

Marks and Gran's too-linear life of Oswald Mosley, as well as Frank Deasy's look at the explosion of hard drugs in 1980s Edinburgh, Looking after Jo Jo, which marked the return to the small screen of John MacKenzie, the director of The Long Good Friday. The similarities with that 1979 Bob Hoskins for This Life. Brothers and movie were a little too marked perhaps, and this was also over-familiar terrain for Robert interesting, capturing Thackeray's satirical tone with fantastic design work and brave casting. You didn't hear people talking about it at work the next day, though.

The other big costume drama the year, Our Mutual Friend. was another well-designed film. which managed to rise above the impression of dust-laden

Edzard's Little Dorritt, this salutary lesson to us Canary was the most convincing portrayal yet of Dickens's world. Anna Friel looked very pretty in a corseted dress, but not as lovely as Aisling O'Sullivan in Chris Evans, Professor Robert the year's best all-round cossie drama, The American, Michael Hastings's adaptation of the Henry James novel, starring O'Sullivan, Diana Rigg and Matthew Modine, transcended its style to involve the viewer with the lives of its characters. As did Adrian Hodge's adapta-Amongst Women, with a great performance from Tony Doyle as the strict Irish widower. The bravest of Alan Bennett's new round of Talking Heads 2 involved David Haig as a paedophile. The best had Dame Thora Hird as a nonagenarian

war widow recalling her dead

Not so modern horrors Two big-budget dramas tried to make us take seriously an alien invasion (Invasion: Earth) and vampires (Ultraviolet). The latter was Jed Mercurio's sophomore project after writing Sisters, about the lives of a gospel choir community in the north of England, was every bit Cartysle. Vanity Fair was more as good as This Life, but I don't recall one word of criticism spoken for or against it in any television review. Perhaps it only pays to reflect the lives of metropolitan media types.

> Who needs dramas when you've got real people? The flood of docu-soaps came,

as was expected. The Cruise. Superstore, Pleasure Beach, Airline, Clampers, Zoo Keepers some of the better of them. everything was particularly Heck, someone even made one well conveyed). After Christine about The Independent - a

Wharfers on the distorting power of the docu-soap genre,

Programmes from Hell Nannies, Christmases, neighbours, weddings, huilders and divorces were all from hell. Andy Hamilton entitled his Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture on the pitfalls of "real people" television, "Brain Surgeons from Hell".

One of the greatest reasons to be cheerful about television in 1998 was that the British sitcom showed some signs of emerging from the purgatory of attempting to emulate Fowlty Towers (John Sullivan's Heartburn Hotel showed that not everybody had shaken off the habit). First we had to wave off some dinosaurs, in particular Drop the Dead Donkey, which re-emerged for a final series in a shower of self congratulation. Father Ted ended for different reasons, although this was always going to be the last series despite Dermot Morgan's untimely death.

Promising newcomers were How Do You Want Me, with Dylan Moran bringing some much needed comic timing to a comedy of townie folk adrift in the country. Men Behaving Badly's Simon Nye wrote this, as well as the mirth-free Is It Legal?, which only goes to illustrate the (some say) glorious unpredictably of the British one-man-and-a-typewriter approach to sitcom writing.

The American team-writers gave us Ally McBeal in a straight (as it were) swap for The malaise of the recent the fast disappearing Ellen. who came out and lost out. The refreshingly different The Royle Family took a somewhat the Runt were both superb ment, though it did bave bet-





Those we have loved (clockwise from top): 'Vanity Fair', 'The Royle Family' and Delia Smith

ation (Northern family sits undermined by weak scripts. around watching TV, scratching their backsides) and concentrated on the comedy. Big Train. from Father Ted's Graham Lineham and Arthur Matthews, promised much, but didn't know whether it wanted to be Monty Python or The Fast Show. You can't be both.

Just because you're well drawn doesn't mean you're funny

British sitcom spread to the emerging British animation Beckett-like approach to situ- animations which were badly ter music. In Tee Time, Chris Just to show up Ian Wright, before, you sure did now.

One would be mightily peeved having spent months painstakingly manipulating Plasticine if one one discovered that the

You're famous. Here's a TV

the trouble.

programme Janet Street-Porter walked from Kent to Wales in Coast to Coast. Perhaps the BBC wanted her out of the office. scene. Stressed Eric and Rex wasn't much of an improve-

Evans toured the world playing golf. He ain't stupid.

Other bad ideas

If I Ruled the World (debating writers hadn't taken a quarter society exercise that would struggle on Radio 4); Food Fight (comedy quiz about food -this year's winner of the Tibs and Fibs prize for desperation); Babes in the Wood, the return of Miss World (and much

show host

Johnny Vaughan, Jeremy Clarkson and the year's other

chat show upstarts. Michael

Parkinson made a comeback last January. Unfortunately, he started by interviewing David Attenborough, Billy Connolly and other, well, not exactly cutting-edge types. His interview with George Michael pointed to better things to come. His next guest is Geri else on Channel 5); and Jo Halliwell. apparently, who Whiley. If God had meant pop seems to follow George Jools Holland's Beat Route stars to talk, he would have Michael everywhere these "here I am driving through a made them all Leonard Cohen. days. The most frightening in-Wax with OJ Simpson, If you didn't think the man was guilty

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1895 the first film comedy was premièred, a ribtickling short about a gardener who is tricked, by a japester messing around with his hose, into wetting himself. The lead part was played by the actual family gardener (typecast again) of the Lumière brothers.

Tomorrow In 1972 passengers from a plane which had crashed in the Andes were rescued, having survived by cannibalism; the 1993 fictionalised film of their ordeal, Alive, was almost

Wednesday In 1672 the first public concert was held "in a nasty hole" in central London, where a former royal musician. who had heen sacked for being cheeky to the king, organised "very good musick". The performers were separated by a curtain from the eating, drinking and smoking audience, who might have put the musicians off their notes.

Thursday Henri Matisse was born in 1869; he became the leader of Fauvism, the group of painters so called after heing denounced as Les Fauves (wild animals) on the grounds that, heing fully paid-up Bohemians, they didn't hrush their hair much.

Friday The British Board of Film Censors started in 1913. Of the the year's 7,510 movies, most were given U certificates, with a few receiving As, while 22 were banned for suggestiveness, ridicule of vicars, excessive drunkenness or "abhorrent" native customs. In 1962 The Beatles auditioned for the Decca record label but were advised not to give up their day jobs.

Saturday The Royal Academy opened in 1769; the sound you heard last year was Sir Joshua Reynolds, its first president, turning in his grave at the sawn-up cow and child-molester-style figures in Saachi's "Sensation" exhibition.

Sunday The first prison film show was held in a New South Wales nick in 1911; movies of "an elevating nature" included the New Wave epic Waterways of Holland and the canine cinėma vėritė classic Dogs of Various

JONATHAN SALE

Quick steps to the brighter side of life

YOU WOULD have to be mad to watch the whole of this evening's Dunce Night on BBC2 from start to finish. But you would be crazy to miss it alther. The opportunity to instructed in the waltz, jive and salsa by that big fat showoff Alexei Sayle (no, that's his own description, not mine) is too funny to miss. Will he manage to convince the Great Brit-ish Public that "dancing is beautiful. It'll make yon live longer, be nicer, stand taller, smile brighter, and think more interesting thoughts". Well, I know it's true, but I'm biased.

His partner for the evening is the ballet dancer Deborah Bull, and she certainly has some interesting thoughts, even if they are not always convincing. Anyone would have dmit that it is a little bizarre to hear her claiming that the choreographer Kenneth Mac-Millan introduced realism into ballet, while the camera shows her in one of his works, held upside down, high above the glamorous Adam Cooper'a head during what is supposed to be a wild seduction scene. We know about the Kama Sutra,

but this is going too far. Bull and Sayle are the hosts for the whole show, starting at 6.00 and going on until 1.50 tomorrow, and besides their nine highly varied main items they introduce some short archive films (from Torvill and Dean's Bolero to Best Ballroom) plus assorted celebrities from many fields telling about "my first dance lesson". Two feature films offer solid entertainment, and even if you feel, like me, tha Chorus Line lost a lot on Leing transferred from stage to screen, the Australian comedy Strictly Ballroom never missDANCE NIGHT

es a point with its canny, hilarious yet touching conflict beinnovators traditionalists.

If star quality is what you are

after, dance doesn't come starrier than Fonteyn and Nureyev in Marguerite and Armand. Fonteyn's contribution, reprised from her 1979 series Magic of the Dance (we deserve to see the whole of that again, soon). is a reminder that she was not only the best ballerina the Royal Ballet ever produced. but the best talker too: wise, witty and well-informed. Eat your heart out, Deborah Bull, famous as today's talking ballerina. Her courage in having ideas of her own is terrific, but I want more argument about the question she poses tonight - "Why is practically every woman I dance created by a

man?" - while ber comments on some of the greatest past (male) choreographers, and her illustration of their works, will leave many balletomanes wondering why the Royal Ballet School doesn't teach hetter dance history and a better grasp of style and content.

Bull is doubtless delighted that women contribute so much to the creative parts of the evening. Perhaps she can explain what Clara van Gool's sbort film Nussin is actually about, with its murderous couples trapped in a snowy railway station, but somehow managing to luxuriate in hot baths. Rosemary Lee's Infanta, I suspect, is not actually about anything. except a young girl with a fascinating face dancing through



The canny, hilarious comedy 'Strictly Ballroom'

a formal garden - hut the child really does fascinate.

Siobhan Davies's The Art of Touch is something else again - one of the best works of the best living British choreographer, excitingly danced by the excellent dancers she made it for, inspired by Scarlatti's keyboard sonatas and a modem supplement for harpsichord by Matteo Fargion. Look how wonderfully it is filmed, too, under Ross MacGibbon's direction: this must be the best thing that sometimes infuriating chap (remember his daft Nur-

eyev documentary?) has done. Davies's work is not everybody's cup of tea, but those who like it will love it. Others may for Clubbing, Marcus Ryder's film about young people who live only for the hours when they can dress up, make up, finesse their way ahead of the queue, get high on drink or

drugs, and dance the night away. Desperately they try to explain just what the appeal is, and if you don't understand, it's not for you (or me, thanks). Any complaints? Frankly,

many things to too many people, and will leave each section of the audience wanting more of the kinds of dance they like, at the expense of the rest. But it is worth a cheer or two that dear old Auntie Beeb has

yes; the evening tries to be too

into their programmes. must be something bere that anyone can like, if only at the risk of living longer, standing taller and thinking more inter-

finally woken up to what good entertainment dance can be, and maybe we can bope they

esting thoughts.

will in future squeeze just a little more of it, more regularly, Meanwhile, enjoy: there

JOHN PERCIVAL

A sumptuous tale with an extra twist

T'S IN the stars. In sleep. In dreams. Night skies, night sweats, magic and mayhem, babushka dolls containing nasty surprises, birds of paradise and of prey - and beds, lots of beds. These are the recurring images of Tim Hopkins's compelling new Royal Opera production of Rimsky-Korsakov's The Golden Cockerel. In its day, the opera - the composer's last was considered subversive. Pushkin, on whose satirical poem it was based, fell out of favour with Tsar Nicholas L Nicholas II's censors suppressed the work. Hopkins shows us why. And then he shows us how. He plucks away at its beautiful plumage, he resists the ravishment, the eastern promise of Rimsky's bejewelled score, he inhabits its shadows, he dwells on the grubby truths which underscore the fairy tale, he looks to the dark side of the moon and stars.

Enter, then, the astrologer: story-teller, fortune-teller, sometime magician. Actually, when we first discover him, he and his beautiful assistant are in bed. As we later learn, they alone are the flesb and blood of this unsettling entertainment. Everything and everybody else is of their making, figments of their imagination and ours. Not surprisingly - but ingeniously - she turns out to be the beautiful Queen of Shemakhan who will be Tsar Dodon's undoing. In the first of several arresting theatrical coups, Hopkins plays the opening of the piece like a false start, taking out one curtain and bringing in another to mark the distinction between what is real and what is imagined. Magician and assistant be in gaudy cerise velvet, she in a figure-hugging, gold-sebehind the fantasy. quined number - now reveal to

ROYAL OPERA

THE GOLDEN COCKEREL

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

cynical twist, she is the voice of the cockerel seated at the side of the stage with her music stand and score, crowing on cue, hut patiently awaiting her moment to deliver the death blow. A Russian mother who

won't yield to mother Russia. And so the diary of a madman - Tsar Dodon - is now under way. He who would sleepwalk his way through responsibility, who would sacrifice his own sons to superstition and whim, whose dreams, whose delusions are all on celluloid like movies in his mind re-run nightly thy our friend the astrologer, of course) - is a ludicrous but terrifying figure of fun. The fool who would be king. He and his court look and behave - in Anthony Baker's striking black and white designs - like the Eisenstein cartoon that never was. Succumbing to the counterfeit charms of his queen-to-be, Hopkins has the booming bass of Paata Burchuladze singing and dancing like Boris Yeltsin on the night of his election. We can no longer hide

With the triumphant prous a giant babushka doll containing – wait for it – a real cession of Dodon and his new babushka. In another neat and bride, Hopkins mounts a kind

of fantastical May Day parade, a chronicle of Russian propaganda, from framed photographs of her imperial past to representatives of industry and the military bearing models of their hardware, and climaxing with a space-walking cosmonaut. The apposition there of Rimsky's hrazenly upbeat triumphalism and the weightless slow-motion and spotless white of the cosmonaut made

for a thrilling theatricality.

Vladimir Jurowski (moved up from later performances to substitute for Gennadi Rozhdestvensky) duly took this as his moment to unrein the Royal Opera Orchestra. His was an unusually subtle and supple response to a score whose fragrance and refulgency can so easily detract from its underlying remorsefulness. Beneath all that luminous melodic and harmonic filigree, a queasiness pervades. The Astrologer sets the tone with his strange, distracted otherworldly falsetto. Jean-Paul Fouchecourt caught the vocal ambiguity beautifully. As did the shapely Elena Kelessidi, suddenly, startlingly reborn as the Queen of Shemakhan, her "languid airs" festooned in shimmering coloratura to match the spotlit gold of her attire. The mysterious cockerel in female form. The bird of paradise. Apologies were given on ber behalf for a viral infection, but you would never have known it. Musically and dramatically, this was an accomplished evening.

As the final words of text came bome to roost, so to speak, Hopkins, one felt, had nailed the subtext. "What will the new dawn bring?" asked the chorus, receding once more into the snowy darkness. "Emptiness," came the reply Small wonder Tsar Nicholas II

was not enamoured. **EDWARD SECKERSON**



NETWORK

A year is a long time in cyberspace

From Microsoft's legal battles to the development of online shopping, 1998 has seen major developments in information technology. By Andy Oldfield

icrosoft started 1998 considering a preliminary injunction granted by US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, prohibiting it from tying its Internet Explorer (IE) browser to the Windows 95 operating system. The company maintained that it was impossible to separate the browser comply with the injunction it proposed offering for sale an older version of Windows or a non-functional one. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a claim for contempt asking that Microsoft be fined \$1m a day until it complied fully with the injunction. The matter was resolved when Microsoft agreed to let manufacturers delete the IE icon from the Windows desktop.

For the US government's antitrust case into whether Microsoft had used illegal business practices to violate a 1995 consent decree, Judge Jackson appointed a "special master". Professor Lawrence Lessig, to collect evidence and propose a legal outcome. Microsoft objected to the appointment, saying that Lessig was demonstrably biased against the software comthat it was examining the possibility of filing fresh anti-trust charges against Microsoft.

In March, the DOJ confirmed that it was widening the scope of its investigatious to include issues related to Sun Microsystems and the Java programming language. Microsoft's sales did not suffer. In March. the company joined the elite "market cap" club, passing the £200bn market value level.

As the year progressed, both the DOJ and Microsoft made extensive use of the media to try and bolster their own cases. Microsoft's contention that the government was impeding its ability to innovate received some support when an appeal court overturned Judge Jackson's preliminary injunction and criticised the timing and rationale of the DOJ's case and its interpretation of

the 1995 consent decree In May, the DOJ was joined by 13 states which were also considering filing anti-trust lawsuits. Eventually a coalition of 20 states and the DOJ filed suits and Judge Jackson agreed to combine the complaints. A date of 8 September was set for the trial. As details of public access to pre-trial witness examinations was worked out, the trial date

expert witnesses presented their testimony on matters such as the degree of integration between IE and Windows, and relationships between Microsoft and other companies such as Netscape Communications, Apple and Intel.

Videotape of Bill Gates being less than co-operative in his deposition provided some light relief. By the end of November, AOL's proposed \$4.2bn buyout of Netscape and and the operating system, so to a co-operative deal with Sun was announced. Earlier this month, Judge Jackson said it could "have an immediate affect on the definition of the market as we are contemplating it here".

By mid-December, one of the states dropped out of the case. South Carolina Attorney General Charles Condon said be felt that Microsoft was no longer harming competition in the hi-tech industry. "The merger of AOL with Netscape... proves that the forces of competition are working," be said. "Further government intervention or regulation is unnecessary and, in my judgement, unwise."

Findings released in January by Positive Support reviews suggested that Microsoft's browser had overtaken Netscape's in usage, but commentators were unsure of the March, US District Court Judge pany. In February, an appeals court methodology employed. More con-Market Intelligence, showed that by June the number of PCs using

> Videotape of Bill Gates being less than co-operative in his deposition to the Microsoft trial provided light relief

Navigator had fallen from 63 per cent last year to 54 per cent, with IE doubling from 21 per cent to 39 per cent. A month later an AdKnowledge survey put the figures at 52,2 per cent and 45.6 per cent respectively. IDC reported that by October Netscape had lost its market lead with 41.5 per cent compared to IE's 43.8 per cent.

In April, Netscape fulfilled an earlier promise to make the code of its software open source, encouraging a wide community of developers to download the code for free and improve upon it. Netscape said that despite its proposed acquisition by AOL in November, work carried slipped to 23 September and then to out by Mozilla.org, the independent 15 October and finally to 19 October. open-source project set-up by Net-Proceedings were often low-key as scape to develop new features and

add-ons for Netscape browsers, would not be affected

The International Telecommunications Union, meeting in Geneva in February, completed the technical specifications of the V.90 standard for 56Kbps modems. Final approval of the draft standard came in September. Although hailed as a solution to compatibility issues, V.90 still caused some problems. Users of Apple's iMac had difficulty in establishing a dial-up connection with their ISPs, a problem, Apple said, caused by ISPs not properly implementing V.90 code.

At the end of February, the European Union criticised a US plan for reforming the Internet's naming and address system, saying that opening up control of domain names to a variety of US companies rather than the US government-contracted Network Solutions Inc (NSD) would still give Americans too much control of the Net. A plan to transfer the control of domain names to a nonprofit international organisation was proposed in June. Agreement was reached between NSI, the US government and the EU for NSFs

monopoly to end by September 2000. The Java wars reached court when, at a preliminary hearing in Ronald Whyte ordered Microsoft to ove the Java-compatible logo from Internet Explorer and its Java software developer kit. Sun Microsystems said Microsoft bad introduced non-standard operating system-specific features in its implementation of Java and had broken the terms of its Java license.

Last month, Judge Whyte said Sun was likely to prevail in court and be issued a preliminary injunction to stop Microsoft from selling any products that use Java, including Windows 98 and Internet Explorer, unless the software was modified to pass Sun's Java tests. Microsoft said it would comply. It also said it would no longer supply Java Virtual Machines for the Macintosh or Unix version of its browser. Microsoft later decided it would appeal against the preliminary injunction.

Steve Jobs, who had returned to Apple Computer in 1997 as interim CEO in an effort to reverse its dwindling fortunes, announced in April that the company had returned profits for two successive quarters on the back of high demand for Power Macintosh G3s. Three months later, be reported that demand was outstripping supply and that more profits were in the offing. He hinted that the upcoming iMac could be the first Apple machine to win converts from current Windows PC users. The August launch of the iMac in the United States saw stores





Enjoying a good year: Jerry Yang of Yahoo! (left) and Steve Jobs of Apple

over the previous year.

selling out on the first day. Although it was on sale for only 17 days in August, it was the second biggestselling system that month, accounting for 7.1 per cent of all sales. Almost 13 per cent of iMacs sold were to people replacing Windows PCs. In September, the iMac launched in Europe. A new version of the Macintosh operating system, MacOS \$.5, also shipped. By October. Jobs was able to report profits for four successive quarters.

Amazon.com, the online bookstore that has made \$2bn for its founder, Jeff Bezos, took its first steps into Europe in May with deals worth \$55m to buy the UK online bookseller Bookpages, the German the entry of Amazon.com into the



market, CDnow said in October that it planned to merge with its June, it expanded into music sales. rival N2K.

offering discounts of 10 to 40 per cent Meanwhile, the MP3 de facto off retail prices. Even though the standard file format, popular among Web users and independent music company bas yet to show a profit in the "investment cycle" of its develdistributors, suffered a setback opment, its share value surpassed when the Recording Industry As-\$100 in June and reached \$300 in sociation of America (RIAA), citing December. It lost \$45m on revenues fears of piracy, won a temporary of \$153m in the third quarter, but saw injunction prohibiting Diamond 564 per cent growth in customers from marketing its Rio music player, a Walkman-like device that plays music downloaded from the Net. The Manoeuvring for position in the online music sales market took off injunction was overturned last in May when CDnow signed a \$14m

deal with MTV to promote the Web In November, Iomega and Liquid as a mass market outlet. Following Audio announced plans to work on technology to enable copyright-

protected online distribution of music. A similar initiative was announced this month by the RIAA, the major record labels, and leading technology companies.

The 25 June release date for Windows 98 did not slip. An update, rather than a new operating system. Microsoft said it was the final incarnation of DOS-based operating systems. The release was low-key compared with the launch of Windows 95, but 17 PC World stores opened at midnight in the UK and sold 1,081 units in one hour of trading. Within a month, one million upgrade units had been sold. The first update was posted on Microsoft's website in August, but the company claimed that it was for multimed enhancements, rather than a bug fish

In a year where all players in the portal website market were making deals and strategic alliances, Yahoo! maintained its position as market leader. In July, Yahoo! co-founders Jerry Yang and David Filo became billionaires when stock prices closed in on \$200 per share. By October, the company had tripled its turnover with profits of \$16.7m on net revenue of \$53.6m for its third quarter, compared with \$18.1m in the previous quarter.

174 BBT

WALLST DEVELO

September saw the launch of Freeserve - a subscription-free Internet service provider backed by Dixons and Energis. The intention was to increase Net traffic and open up the potential for electronic commerce. Although technical support was charged at £1 per minute, by last month the service had established itself as the UK's second-largest ISP with 475,000 users, close behind the UK's largest, AOL, with 500,000 paying users.

What changes will 1999 bring to your online life?

THE INTERNET changed our daily routines beyond all recognition in 1998. For the first time, many of us logged on and shopped for our Christmas presents online. You have sent your share of Christmas e-cards featuring South Park cartoons. You have probably been on the receiving end of at least a few of those killer attachments (and filtered out for ever the overenthusiastic senders who clog up your in-box with animated bursts of Flash creativity).

You have watched Paul McCartney cooking live on www.broadcast.com, and even downloaded Linda's recipes from the website, since she seemed to be the only person on Earth who could make mung beans look tasty. Finally, you dragged your new, wafer-thin Viao laptop to your mother-in-law's for Christmas dinner. Now you can play new scenarios for Civilisation II and pick up your

e-mails using the infrared system on your newly acquired Nokia mobile phone and impress all your relatives with the magic of wireless communications. With all these new tricks we learned in 1998, is there anything left to discover in 1999?

You will be pleased to know that there will be plenty of new gizmos coming our way, and some of them may even turn out to be useful. My money is on a boom in hardware, driven by new hand-held devices, and particularly those that can keep us entertained while waiting for the night bus in Trafalgar Square. The Son-of-the-Palm-Pilot-and-Game-Boy will be born anytime now, so you will be able to find the number for your local minicab and play a quick game while you are waiting for it to turn up. Persooal digital assistants are merging not only with mobile phones but also pagers, Walkmans. Minidisc

players and even watches. This trend towards combining personal organisers and entertainment will produce many new multifunctional gizmos that can be beld in the palm of your hand. This is also driving developments in wireless connectivity, where everything has an infrared connection to other gizmos. True portability is just round the corner, freeing us forever from the narrow confines

However, the biggest developments in 1999 will be driven by that most urgent of buman desires - the Need for Speed. I feel this need is beginning to affect my normally rational behaviour. Recently, I've started to contemplate moving to an area that provides cable modems. Migration patterns of the population following bandwidth availability have already been noted in leafy Hampstead. This quiet suburban

of the office.



EVA PASCOE

The year's biggest changes will be driven by that most urgent of human desires - the Need for Speed

backwater has suddenly shot to fame, with the claim of being the first area in London where you can obtain an ASDL connection. Plugging this beauty into your

PC means sudden elevation to a higher level of the wired experience. A mere 56K mortal will feel like she or he has never surfed the Net before. Suddenly, online shopping takes two minutes instead of 10, video streams flow off the pipe in a pleasing, jerk-free fluidity and online radio becomes a viable alternative to Kiss FM.

The rollout of ASDL will also bring demands for more video on websites, and with rapidly decreasing costs of desktop video editing, more programmes will appear on topics not related to gardening, motoring or Delia Smith, and that is something I can't wait to see. I gave up on terrestrial television a long time ago, but still lurk at CNN and SkyNews. Now with ZDNet putting a new show online every day I bope that my channelzapping days are well and truly over. I predict 1999 will also be a

big year for satellite Internet

connections, with football clubs cooking up new video-Web programmes that will not be available to the non-satellite Internet users.

I also expect online banking will take off next year, as the well-known British pastime of spending lunch bour queueing at the bank simply to pay the gas bill falls somewhat short of the desirable 21st-century banking experience. If my bank doesn't get its act together pretty soon, I will follow its CEO and move to an American competitor that understands my lifestyle and online payment systems. Bill Gates has been making noises about starting an online bank, and despite various misgivings about his style of software development, f would sign up as his e-wallet proposition is a lot more innovative than anything Barclays or Lloyds have yet to come up with.

Finally. I hope that 1999 will

also be the year when I will receive an e-mail response from my local MP. Even if it's an automatic acknowledgement, I will frame it, cherish it and hang it above my bed, thankful for the pleasure of living in the era where the Government understands that its function is customer service. Complaints departments will have to answer in 24 hours and deal with the matter within a day or I shall withdraw my taxes. If it wasn't for the incomprehensible lack of progress of the Inland Revenue's own online efforts. I could even

electronically All in all, there's sure to be plenty of entertainment to look forward to in 1999, that is if Y2K doesn't muck up our computerbased society well in advance of the Big Day, Meanwhile, I wish you a year full of of technoadventures - and a cable modem. eva@never.com

be withdrawing my taxes

Which way Web sales?

IN CASE you it escaped your attention, last week was Christmas. And the high street is not the only place that has benefited from gift-giving. The Web has posted record sales as more and more busy people went online to play Santa.

For sites selling products and services, the audience is no onger visitors surfing the web, (http://www.independent.co.uk/n et/980810ne/story5.html). Instead, they have become consumers. There are two sides to the consumer coin: marketing and selling.

Selling seems to he doing quite well, as evidenced by the online star, Amazon.com, whose stock has soared to over \$300. It is Web marketing - convincing a person to huy - that's struggling.

Traditionally, marketing to the masses has been based on a passive model through print, television and radio ads. These require no immediate action by consumers, but instead they receive ads intended to influence or change their buying habits. There is some differentiation of ads for different audiences, hut generally, ads are intended to appeal to as broad a segment of

the population as possible. The Weh is supposed to he different: It is about the two-way transfer of information, and is an active medium where a website visitor is expected to interact with the content. The Web has indeed strengthened the voice of special interest groups, each with its own needs. concerns and desires.

Unfortunately, marketing on the Weh became stuck early on with the generic hanner ad. These are really nothing more than a concept borrowed from the world of print. They are general long graphics that span the top of the screen, often animated, and used just like print ads to capture the viewer's interest. Banner ads are also hypertextualy linked to further information which viewers will

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD

"click-through", but often what the visitor finds at the other end is another idea borrowed from the print world - the brochure website: these simply present static information, just like a printed brochure.

How effective are banner ads and brochure sites? One school of thought is that if they didn't work they would not have endured. Yet they are little better than their counterparts in older media at engaging web users in active participation.

In other media, the value of an advertisement is based on the number of people seeing that advertisement. For most mediums this is scientifically calculated using careful measurements of circulation or the number of televisions or radios tuned in But, you can throw these notions out of the window when it comes to measuring how many people see a banner ad on the Web. especially since the clickthrough rate is far more important than the number of

eyeballs laid upon it. Services, such as NetRatings and MediaMetrix, attempt to measure the number of visitors and how often they click on ads. Yet these services often provide completely different results for the same site. When websites go seeking ad revenues they can pick the numbers that paint their site in the best light.

While banner ads definitely generate revenue for a lot of different sites, it is questionable whether they capture customers for the firm paying for the ad. So, is the hannerad/click-through/brochure-site model how online marketing

should be pursued in future? The Web is still a very young and underdeveloped medium, hut one that has come of age in the era of big media with big expectations and highly refined methods, especially in marketing. It still requires testing and experimentation or it is possible that its full

potential may never be realised. So what should our strategy he? What are our other options in online marketing? Simple: Use the Web's strengths.

Unlike other mediums with

limited bandwidth there is only so much room on newsagents' shelves or television channels), the web is infinite. You can set up as many sites as you wish and each can be narrowly focused for a specific audience. For about the price of a single TV ad. a firm can set up a website for its targeted audience. But why stop there? Why not target the people who influence the people who buy your product? Websites can be set up with content and functions that appeal to these trend-setters and be sponsored (rather than advertised on) by a company wishing to endear itself to this select audience. The Weh may well change the nature of selling as we move from macro-marketing into niche-marketing.

Niche sites may have a small audience, but have the potential directly to reach the people interested in purchasing a particular product or service. They build hrand loyalty, and in the future that'll be even more vital than brand recognition.

Send your comments or queries to Jason at indy_webdesign@ mindspring.com

My Technology

Fashion designer Amanda Wakeley on her Motorola StarTAC phone.

Interview by Jennifer Rodger

A mobile makes me far more efficient

see people apparently talking to themselves while sitting in a car using a hands-free mobile device. But you know, - or rather hope - that this is not the case.

I have used mobile phones for quite a long time. I think back to my first mobile, eight years ago, which was like a brick, but heavier than one and with batteries that only lasted two hours. This one [the StarTAC] is relatively new; I got it about a year ago. Because I travel a lot, going to the West End for meetings, for instance. It means I can carryon working in the taxi or car. If you are sitting in traffic you might as well be mak-ing phone calls. My day doesn't stop

I must say this mobile is hrilliant. The only time it doesn't work is when you use it in America, which is a law unto itself. American cellular phones are on completely different systems. But when I was somewhere remote, such as Zanzibar last year, it worked a treat. One thing I don't like about using mobile phones, particularly this one, is that I am not convinced it is at all healthy - what with the reports relating the signals to

t always makes me laugh to cancer. And you can't get one of those earpieces for the StarTAC, which would reduce the worry. Plus. I am not convinced Motorola has got the equipment right. There is a fragility about the design; it can hreak hile you are trying to fold it down. This is my third one. To be honest, the multitude of mo-

hiles you can now get makes choosing one very confusing. Well, I find it so! In the end, I chose a StarTAC because it has a long battery life, is light and compact. The batteries are so tiny I don't mind carrying them. And I can just turn off my mobile when I don't feel like answering it.

It has an answer phone, so that's fine-it can take the messages, I am not someone who wastes a lot of time on the phone, although I do use it to keep in touch with my friends and family, but it is generally for calls of a business nature or to make arrangements quickly.

Most people I come in contact with in fashion have a mobile. I don't have a secretary and use voicemail instead - both in the office and at home. So this technology means I don't need a receptionist; everyone in my office has their own phone lines and volcemail. You think of an



Amanda's mobile keeps her working on the road

office with 20 people who are all likely to receive about 40 personal calls per day, which a receptionist would have to sort. I think it's fine that people can now go straight through to the person they want to speak to: it's much more efficient and the concept of someone answering phones just to put you through is outdated.

Efficiency is why new technology appeals to me. Everything is becoming a lot more convenient. I bave beard people call it the trend towards cocooning. Doing things such as supermarket shopping on the Internet means we are more likely to stay inside. But I think the convenience of shopping on the PC will never take away the luxurious feeling you can get from touching items, from feeling clothes. However, on the other hand, if you know a brand like ours.

you can assume the feel and quality will be there. Plus the whole idea behind Amanda Wakeley's collaboration with Principles has been to make designer clothes more accessible to a wider audience - perhaps for people who don't live in one of the major cities.

Other than this, I use e-mail a little hit, but it's still of a mystery to me: But I am coming round to it. As you can probably tell, I am not a natural tech-nerd - or whatever they call it - but I absolutely love the convenience of it. I just think It's a more competitive world, so we have to be more efficient in our work practices.

Amanda Wakeley designs for Principles are available online at http://www.principles.co.uk/ama

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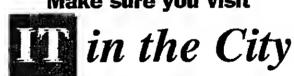
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ication and marketing skills. If you have all the above skills, we will be interested to hear from you. Please send a copy of your updated Curricul

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Legal Notices

CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF CAPLIN CORPORATION LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 COMPANIES ACT 1988
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday the 4th day of December 1988 confirming the cancellation of the Share Prension Account of the Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 17th December.

Pitmans, 47 Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7SR oficitors to the Company

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NEW_FILMS

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG) Director: Samitah Makhmalbat

/% TT

Starring: Massoumeh Nadari, Zahra Naderi Seventeeo-year-old Makhmalbaf's precocious début re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker Part docudrama, part rites-of-passage fable, The Apple is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15) **Director:** Tony Scott

Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in a tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenalised chase scenes. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG)

Director: Peter Chelsom Starring: Sharon Slone, Gillian Anderson Peter Chelsom's The Mighty is a stolid and rather predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

cadero, Warner Village West End

Director: Vincent Ward Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra Along comes Christmas, and out comes What Dreams May Come; an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams simpers as the dead chappie who leaves a cod-Impressionist heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceits arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar, West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Tro-

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairvtale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clopham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzu Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler gall-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (I)

This has it all: pro-active heroine: strong father/daughter relationship; hooour, nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzonine, UCI Whiteleys. Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (151

See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15) Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in this thrilling drama. West End: Odeon Marble Arch. Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG) Disney reheats its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of twin sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington,

Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Stoiss Cottage, Odeon

West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, Dream Works honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Mooet and photographed by David Lean". The eod result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Ful-

RUSH HOUR (15)

ham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with a LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

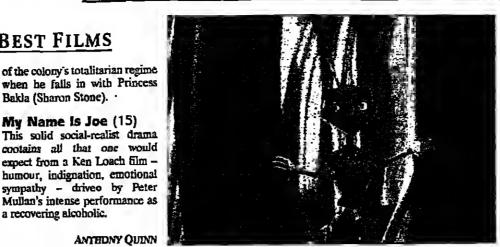
This tale of love oo opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Cloooey and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

This computer-animated comedy (right), voiced by a stellar cast, stars a recovering alcoholic. Woody Alleo as worker an "Z", who becomes an unlikely opponent

of the colony's totalitarian regime when he falls in with Princess Bakla (Sharon Stone). .

My Name is Joe (15) This solid social-realist drama cootains all that one would expect from a Ken Loach film humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driveo by Peter

ANTEDNY OUINN



THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntila and His Man Matti (Albery Theatre) A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a solitpersonality landowner. To 9 Jan

Love Upon the Throne (Comedy Theatre) The Charles and Diana story (up to the divorce) prescoted by the National Theatre of Brent (all

two of them). Very funny and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Martin Guerre (West

Yorkshire Playhouse) It's third time lucky for this much rewritten Boublil/Schöoberg musical. lo Cocall Morrisco's starkly lovolving production, it finally emerges as a tighter. magnificeot show. To 13 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

CINEMA

ARC BAKER STREET Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) — Piccadily Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm A Perfect Munder 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm.8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) © Piccadilly Circus Harnam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Slums of Beverty Hills 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 9.45pm 8,45pm

ARC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4,10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm The Eel 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1,15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD [0870-902 0414] ◆ Tottenham Court Road Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm. 3.40pm Enemy of the 5tate 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm My Name is Joe 6.30pm. 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN [0171-638 8891] Barbican The Mighty 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) O Sloane Square On Connaît la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Parent Trap 1nm. 3.45om The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come 4.15pm, 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm.

CURZON SOHO [0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) Deicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Casablanca 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm. 9.10pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm The **Mighty** 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm **My Name is Joe** 4.30pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Castle The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

[0990-888990] • Leicester Square Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ◆ Notting Hill Gate The Mighty 4.45pm, 6.55pm.

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) & Ravenscourt Park Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm.

METRO (0171-734 1506) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (Sib) 3pm. 5pm. 7pm. 9pm Fire 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.30pm. 8.30pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) ↔ Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm.

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705-050007) & Camden Town Babe: Pig in the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.55pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.40am,
2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush
Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm,
8.55pm What Dreams May Come

5.55pm, 8.35pm ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) & Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm,

3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8,40pm ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) O High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm. 3.55pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 7.30pm,

4.15pm. 7pm. 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) Leicester Square The Mask of Zorro 11.40pm, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

ODEON MEZZANINE
(08705-050007) & Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm,
5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 8.25pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3,15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm. 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) Piccaelly Circus Everest 2,40pm, 4,45pm, 7pm, 9,05pm T-Res: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm. 3,40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) • Piccadilly Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babe: Pig In the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rash Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square The Apple (5tb) Ipm, 2,55pm, 4,50pm, 6,45pm, 8,45pm On Conneit la Chanson 3,45pm, 8,35pm leiphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

(0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton Antz 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4,45pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm. 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 6.50pm, 9.20pm La Vie Revée des Anges 4.25pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) → Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm. 5.30pm. 8.20pm Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) & Angel/Highbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm

UCI WHITELEYS

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) ◆ Belsize Park Left 4.40pm The 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

10990-888990) & Queensway Antz 11.30am, 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.200pm, 5.90pm, Mulan 12noon, 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan 11am Out of Sight phone for times The Parent Trap phone for times The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 5.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection Wed 6.40pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm. 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) → Sloane Square/South Kensington Antz 1.15pm Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm. 3om. 5.45pm Rush Hour 3.30pm.

Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) Θ South Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12noon, 2.10pm, 4,15pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3,10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm,

8.50pm VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) & Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Mighty 12,30pm. 3,10pm. 5.50pm. 8.25pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm.

3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-907 0716) ◆ Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm. 2.20pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm. 9pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm. 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm. 2.25pm. 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm There's Something About Mary 6.20pm. 9pm The Truman Show 1pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm.

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) + Leicester Square Blade 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Exercist (25th

9.35pm The Exercist (25th Anniversary Rerelesse) 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, 5tock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Muian 11.40pm, 3.55pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 11,30am, 1,30pm, 3,40pm, 5,50pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in the City 10,20am, 12,30pm, 2,40pm, 4,50pm, 7,20pm Blade 10pm, 12,40pm Enemy of the State 11am, 12noon, 1,45pm, 3pm, 4,30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8,55pm, 9,50pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2,50pm, 5,40pm, 8,30pm Mulan 10,10am The The Mask of Zarro 12 noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.10am The Negotiator 9.40pm The Parent Trap 11.10am, 1.55pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 11.05am, 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm, 10.10pm Small Soldiers 11.15am What Dreams May Come 1.35pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

BROMLEY ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Babe: Fig In The City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, S.15pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 1pm The Prince of Egypt 1,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 3,45pm

PELTHAM CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11am, 1pm. 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11am, 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pfg In The City 12noon. 2.20pm, 4.40pm Blade 10.05pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 3.05pm, 9.35pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 11.25am, 6.10pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kuchat 11.05am, 6.05pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3om, 6pm, 9pm The Mighty 5pm. 6,05pm The Mask of 20tro 12noon. 5pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mighty 5pm. 7,10pm, 9,25pm Mulan 11,40am Nasceb 11,35am, 6,25pm Out of Sight 6,50pm, 9,35pm The Parent Trap 11am, 1,50pm, 4,30pm, 7,10pm The 1.10pm, 2.20pm, 3.25pm, 4.40pm. 5.40pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm, 10pm Small Soldiers 11.20am The Soldier (Asian Film) 11.50am, 6.20pm Wajood 2.50pm. 9.40pm What Dreams May

Come 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 7pm, NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344)

Beast Finchley Antz 12.20pm. 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In the City 10.50am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm. 6.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.20pm, S.20pm, 8.20pm Mulan 12noon The Negotiator 9.20pm Out of Sight 9.10pm The Par-9.20pm Out of Signt 9.10pm The Par-ent Trap 11.50am, 3pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 11.20an, 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Small Soldiers 11am What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.10pm,

6.50pm. 9.40pm HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) Belsize Park Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 5.55pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.20om The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm 35pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.25pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) & Highgate Babe: Pig In the City 12.20pm Enemy of the 5 tate 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm. 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.05pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm,

PUTNEY ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Putney/ © Putney Bridge Antz 1.15pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.45pm En-erny of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm What Oreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Babe: Pig In the City 12.15pm. 2.15pm. 4.15pm Enemy Of the State 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm. 3pm. 5.50pm. 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Rush Hour 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 6.20pm.

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) & Tumpike Lane Enemy of the State phone for details The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) ◆ Walthamstow Central Antz 1.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 3.30pm Enemy of the State 5pm. 6pm The Parent Trap 2pm The Prince of Egypt 3.50pm. 6.10pm. 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Enemy of the State 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.30pm.

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Prince Of Egypt phone for details What Dreams May Come phone for details

) THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, Theatra Reveal Lieu E Houseman. Theatre Royal, Hay-market Haymarket, SW1 [0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

LONDON NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232)
Sling Blade (15) 3pm The Lavender
Hill Mob (U) 4.15pm Lost in Space
(RG) 5.40pm Schindler's Late (15) 7pm
An Angel at My Table (15) 8pm ▶ JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ← Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £5.50-£18.50.

CINEMA

REPERTORY

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place Printe Charles Lecester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Rounders (15) 1pm Le Bossu (15) 3.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights (12) 6.15pm Nil by Mouth (18) 9pm

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Mutan (U) 2pm Casablanca (U) 6.30pm Elizabeth (15) 6.30pm Fire

BRISTOL CUBE (0114-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm It's A Wonderful Life (U) 7pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm, 8.20pm If Only (15) 3pm, 6.05pm MouseHunt (PG) 3.05pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Elizabeth (15) 2pm, 6.45pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Governess (15) 7.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Lost in Space (PG) 2,30pm There's Some-thing About Mary (15) 5,30pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 8.15pm

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

— Seats a all prices) — Seats at some prices O
— Returns only Matinees — (1): Sun, (3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 [0171-494 5065] & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5)[7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins. AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri. Old Vic The Cut, SEI (0171-

DALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael

928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4] 2,30pm. (7) 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins. ily musical based on the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road

W1 (0171-656 1888) → Tott Ct Rd. Tonight 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £18.50-£35. 150 mins. BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's musical melodrama, Phoenio Charing Cross Road, WC2 [0171-369 1733) + Leic Sa/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.4Spm.)5) 3.00pm. (7) 4.00pm. £11.50-E32.50. 165 mins.

■ BOOGIE NIGHTS Shape Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WCZ (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) O Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm,)6| 5.30pm, (7) 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50, 150 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Bolly, Strand Ald-wych, WC2 (0171-930 B800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8.00pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5.00pm & 8.30pm, mats)1) 4pm. £10-£27, half price Friday matinees. 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems, New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) & Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, booking to June 26, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star. Adelphi Maiden Lane. WCZ (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, booking to 25 Sep. £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

CINDERELLA Staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ◆ Hammersmith, Today 2.30pm & 7pm. ends 9 Jan. £5-£18. concs £6.50.

DR DOLITTLE New stage adaptation featuring Jim Benson Puppets. Lon-don Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street. W6 (0171-416 6022) O Hammersmith, Tue-Sat 7,30pm. (4((7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins. FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane

stage version of the TV series. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 [0171-839 5972) + Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm. ends 16 Jan, £15-£30. GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ← Covent Gar-

O AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's come dy. Lyric Shoftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) → Picc Crc. Mon-Sat

£10-£30, 150 mins.

■ AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-occlaimed pro of JB Priestley's thriller, Garrick Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Leic Sq., Mon-Fri 7,45pm, Sat © Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm. (4) 2.30pm. [7) 5.00pm. £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

O INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and apine's acclaimed musical based on irylales. Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ◆ Coveni Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. (4)(7) 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the

● KAPKA'S DICK Alan Bennett's com-edy about the moribund writer. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 [0171-369 BRACKNELL WILDE THEATRE Phocchic Classic 1734) & Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm. ends LOVE UPON THE THRONE Taste-(01344-484123)

© LOVE UPON THE THRONE 1/350-ful look at the Charles and Diana mar-riage. Cornedy Panton 5treet, SWI (0171-369 1731) ◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, endsJan 9, £7.50-£25. RRENTWOOD LES MISERABLES Musical drama-

BRIGHTON

PLES MISERABLES Musical oraliza-tisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 [0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins. MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm. £5.75-£35.

• THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodwnit. St Martin's West 5treet, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Lek Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm. (3) 2.45pm [7) 5.00pm, E10-E24.50. 135 mins. SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save the World New adventure, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI New version of Bracht's comedy satire. Afbery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5)|7|3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-33 50 O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, (4)[7) 3,00pm, £10-£35, 150 mlns. RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holbort/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm,

£12.50-£32.50. 160 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE DOLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. In reptonight 7.15pm.

● LYTTELTON: Geo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm. 120 mins. ▶ COTTESLOE: Haroun and the Sea

of Stories Tim Supple's stage adapta-tion of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed nov-

el In rep tonight 7.30pm. Olivler & Lyttelton: E8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Dat seats from 10am. South Bank, 5E1 (0171-452 3000). 8R/ Water-ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE BARBICAN: The Merchant of

Venice RSC production of Shake-speare's drama about love and money. In rep tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins. THE PIT: Shadows: Riders to the Sea & The Shadow of The Gien & Pur-gatory Triple-bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: E5-E26. The £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre,

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIS 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Ar-gyll Street. W1 (0171-494 5020) ♣ Ox-ford Circ. Mon-Sat. 7.30pm. (4)[7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

■ STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew

EC2 (0171-638 8891), 8R/O Barbi-

Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria, Mor Sat 7.45pm. (3)(7) 3.00pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.) THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayekbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street.

den, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] [7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's dra-ma is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) 5t Martin's Lane, WC2 [0171-565

I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical Prince Edward Old Compton Street W1 (0171-447 5400) ← Leic 5q/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £15-£35. 160 mins.

sus, Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000) & Holbom, Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THEATRE

Beanstalk Toyah Willcox, Mark Curry and Vicki Michelle join the stars of Runbote, Today 2pm & 7pm. ends 30 Jan E8-E15, concs available, The Green, Richmond. Surrey (0181-940 0088)

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eastenders stars alongside Only Pools and: Horses' John Challis. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs available. Sawclose (01225-448844)

tale of the wooden puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy. Today 2pm. ends 3 Jan. £10. concs £8. South Hill Park

BRENTWOOD THEATRE Cinderella Traditional rags to riches panto. Today 2.30pm & 6.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £4.50-£6.50. Stenfield Road [01277-200300]

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame's en-chanting tale of river life. Today 2.30pm & 6.30pm. £6.95-£8.95. concs avail-able. University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

NEW THEATRE The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe David Essex stars. Today 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm, ends 30 Jan. E7-£13.50, concs available. Park Place (01222-878889)

Today 2pm & 7pm, ends Jan 9, £6-£10, concs available, Senghenydd Road (01222-230451) NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick Whittington Follow the penniless hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold.

Today 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£15. Stocker Road (01392-493493) FALMOUTH FALMOUTH ARTS CENTRE Sleepin Beauty Miracle Theatre's reworking of this classic tale. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £5.50. concs £3-£4. Churth Street (01326-212200)

Street (01326-212300) HASTINGS WHITE ROCK THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Jet co-stars with Neighbour Jesse Speacer Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 3 Jan, £4,50-£8,50, concs available.

White Rock (01424-781000) APOLLO THEATRE Jesus Christ Superstar Tim Rice and Lloyd Webber's acclaimed biblical musical Today, 3pm & 7.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£24.50, Mable. George Street (01865-

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation. Today 2pm & 5.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £6-£16.50.

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eaumont 5treet (01865-798600) PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat Thrilling adventure story full of comedy, music and magic. Today 1.30pm, 4.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £5.75-£9.75, concs available. Embankment Road (01733-552439)

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Bearstalk Gladiator Scorpio and Su Pol-lard climb the giant beanstalk. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 30 Jan. £6-£15.50. Royal Parade South [01752-267222)

POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdin Dora

Bryan stars as the Slave Of the Ring aloogside Tracey Childs and David McAlister of Hollyoaks. Today 2.30pm & 7pm. ends 16 Jan. E5.90-E11.90. concs available. Kingland Road (01202-THE HEXAGON The Wizard of Oz Michaela Strachan 80es over the rainbow. Today 2pm & 7pm. ends 10 Jan. £10.50-£15. concs available. Queens Walk (0118-960 6060)

SALISBURY SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Aladdin Magic carpet ride to Peking and the land of Emperor Foo Wiff Pong. Today 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 16 Jan. £8-(01722-320333)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Namia sic. Today 7.15pm, ends 27 Feb. €5-£30

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consumi sexual desire. Today 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-

THEATRE ROYAL Puss in Boots Ian McCaskill is joined by panto veterans Rod Hull and Emu. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £6.50-£23, concs available. Thames Street (01753-853888)

PAVILION THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Rebel stars, Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.95-£9.90. Marine Parade (01903-820500) CONNAUGHT THEATRE Aladdin Ex-Big Breakfast star Mark Little goes up the Beanstalk with Linda Notan

Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. E8-

the second secon

£11.50, concs available. Union Place (01903-235333) VEOVIL
OCTAGON THEATRE Snow White and
the Seven Dwarfs Lavish musical
panto. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 9
Jan £8.50-£10.50. concs £6.50-£8.50.
Hendford (01935-422884)

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WC2 (0171-494 5075) ◆ Covent Ga

5000) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,)4)[7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's musical about two children who mistake an escaped convict for Je-

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) O Holbom, Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, Sat den, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 3.00pm, 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

BEYOND THE WEST END

YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights Collection of magicot Eastern tales adapted for the stage by Dominic Cooke. Tonight 7pm, continuing. £7-£18. TheCut. 5£1 [0171-928 6363] ♠ .®R.

MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00 Chris Moyles, 10.00 Radio

1's All Time National Anthems. 6.00 The Bast of Lamacq Live. 12.00 The Breezeblock, 2.00 Emma B. 4.0-7.0 Clive Warren. RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta: The Dawn Patrol: news, views and music. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10.00 Steve Wright's Million Sellers. 12.00 Alan Freemen. 2.00 Red's Simply Soulful Christmes: Mick Hucknatt picks his favourite records for Christmas and reveals which artists have influenced his career. 3.00 The Festive Jukebox. 5.00 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Christ-mas Special. 8.30 Jools Holland Christmas Special 9.30 in the Days before Rock 'n' Roll. 10.30 Bob Harris. 12.00 Katrina

Leskanich. 3.0-4.0 Nicky Home. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Camille Seint-Saens 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 3.50 The Harmonic Series. 4.00 Mozari Voices. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms, 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Cabaret Cocktails. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to heer ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 **BBC Proms season at the Royal** Albert Hall, London. 6: Prom 72, given on 11 September. Ruth Ziesak (soprano), Bernarda Fink (contraito), Herbert Lippert (tenor), Neal Davies (bass), Arnold Schoenberg Choir, Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Beethoven: Missa solemnis. (R)

9.00 Postscript. Peter Holland talks to ten Shakespeare experts about the Bard today. 1: 'Shake-

6.00 Back to the Future, Part III (1990) (60577). 8.00 Mrs Winterbourne (1996)

(39532577), 9,50 Dragonheart (1996) (91240848), 11.35 Hamlet (1996)

(91920157), 1.40 Mrs Winterbourne (1996)

Part III (1990) (348119). 6.15 Dragonheart

Day (1996) (13311374). See Pick of the Day.

10.20 Absolute Power (1997) (32059645)

1996) *(*97400645), **8.00** Independenc

12.25 The Great White Hype (1996)

6.00 The Way to Dusty Death (1995)

(62935). 9.00 The Associate (1995) (32111). 10.00 James and the Glant Peach (1996)

(60003). #1.30 That's Right - You're Wrong

(\$2374). **1.00** They Won't Believe Me (\$2393). **3.00** The Way to Dusty

(1996) (52433157). 11.00 Maximum Security

(1996) (37751). **12.30** Box of Moonlight (1997) (565523). **2.20** Big Trouble in Little China (1986) (634829). **4.00 - 6.00**

4.00 Mr and Mrs Smith (1941) (7207683). 6.00 Sea Wolves (1980) (9613645). 8.00 Zulu (1964) (88849175). 10.15 The Name of the Rose (1986) (86623003). 12.25 Mon-

sieur Beaucaire (1946) (9306639). 2.05

Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Claw (1942) (88328833), 3,25 Hollywood Hall of

Fame (98948962), 3.55 House of Seven

Gables (1940) (85586977). 5.20 Close.

6.00 A River Runs through It (1992)

95664). **12.00** Angel (1982)

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

(8659206). 4.30 Waker's World

(2234691). 1.30 Little Odessa (1994)

(2773886). 8.00 Frankie Starfight (1994) (2745003). 10.00 Trojan Eddie (1995)

(2421523). 3.10 - 6.00 Romeo Is Bleed-

(8648190). **4.30** Warkers With (8648190). **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (2015799). **5.30** Jurassica (8662770). **6.00** Animal Doctor (8669683). **6.30** Shark Island (2129596). See *Pick of the Day*. **7.30** Beyond 2000 (8656119). **8.00** Wilder Discovery: Zamber (1986). See Pick of the Day. **7.30** Bick of the Day.

bezi Shark (5359374). See Pick of the Day. 9.00 Hammerheads (5379138). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Jaws in the Med

Touched by Evil (1996) (57726).

SKY CINEMA

LINFOUR

ing (1994) (96873639).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Death (1995) (92190), 5.00 The Associate (1996) (30480), **7.00** James and the Giant Peach (1996) (56016729), **8.50** White Squall

(9574349), **1.55** Dead Silence (1996) (738558), **3.35** - **6.00** Pich Man's Wife

26021935). 3.30 Barry Norman's Films of the Year (1721664). 4:15 Back to the Future,

SKY PREMIER

(1996) (21617981).

SKY MOVIEMAX

PICK OF THE DAY

WITH DIARIES, short stories and is explored by his most recent readings, Alan Bennett (right) biographer, Park Honan, and now seems to have become a Katherine Duncan-Jones, who firmly established part of the Christmas ritual. Today be begins an atmospheric five- Cocktails", we get Caharet part reading of Peter Pan and Cocktails (7pm R3) with Noel Wendy (9.45am R4 FM).

R3). This evening, our continuing fascination with the Bard's life

speare's Life and Work*. With bi-

ine Duncan-Jones, editor of the

by Nicola Haywood Thomas. Shostakovich: String Quartet No

in B flat, K458 (Hunt). Schubert:

String Quartet in A minor, D804.

Robert Sandall scan the passing

ing It' listeners' top ten albums of

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Start the Week,

9.45 Seriel: Peter Pen and

Wendy. See Pick of the Day.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.30 My Gaiety Girls. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

11.00 NEWS; Dear Peter Pan. (R)

11.30 Jazz Notes.

Georges Bizet. (R)

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

12.57 Weather.

Open Secrets.

gramme.

5.00 PM.

5-57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 NEWS; Afternoon Play:

4.00 NEWS; The Food Pro-

1.30 Counterpoint.

3.00 Money Box Live.

3.45 Nay, Ivy, Nay.

4.30 Turning World.

3.30 The Small Ad. (R)

RADIO 4

ographer Park Honan and Kather-

sonnets. See Pick of the Day. 9.20 Brodsky Quartet. Introduced

11, Op 122. Mozert: String Quartet

10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and

year and play tracks from the 'Mix-

edited the Sonnets.

After last week's "Christmas Coward, et al; alas, the wordless Another national treasure gets purity of the originals is sullied by analysed in Postscript (9pm Robert Cushman's commentary, and it's just not the same.

ROBERT HANKS



6.00 Six Q'Clock News. 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 'The Stephen King Interview', In his first radio interview for many yeers, the world's best-selling author talks to Mark Lawson about a life of horror. (R) 7.45 Under One Roof. The second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. As New Year approaches,

There may be a few broken bones - and even hearts - before 1 January dawns. With Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director Marilyn Imrie (1/5). 8.00 NEWS; Brass Barmy, Natelie Wheen visits music-mad Wardle High School, which has no less

everyone feels rather fragile.

than ten brass bands and countless ensembles. (R) 8.30 Analysis. The Truth Is inside You'. As we unravel the human genome, we also gain knowledge which might be too hot to handle. lan Hargreaves asks how this scientific revolution will affect both the way we see ourselves and the

way we organise society.

9.00 NEWS; Nature: A Wolf to the North. Heading north Into the Alaskan interior, Jim Crumley uncovers the bitter controversy surrounding the hunting of wolves inside Alaska's most famous nature reserve, Denali National Park. He is forced to examine his own prejudices over hunting the animals that symbolise all he loves. 9.30 Start the Week, Jeremy
Paxman and guests sel the cultur1.00 Bank Holiday Sport on 5.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

el agenda for the week. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Sue Cameron. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahls. 1: 'Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's Coat' by Roald Dahl,

read by Joanne Lumley. When Mrs Bixby's lover ends their effair, he gives her e mink coet. How can she explain to her husband where the coat has come from? 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. Jo Brand speaks on behalf of HMD Response, a women's centre and a rape and trauma counselling service In Bosnia. 11.02 The Man without the Mo-

11.30 The Bells of Russia. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57

Shipping Forecast, 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special, RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 7.00 Breakfast 9.00 Brian Heyes.

6.06 Six-Q-Six. 7.30 The Monday Match. Coverege of Leicester v Blackburn in the FA Carling Premiership. 10.00 20th-Century Vox - Great Sporting Moments. Sybil Ruscoe looks back on the century's sporting highlights. 11.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today. Including at 11.00 a late news

briefing. 1.00 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R) 5.00 - 6.00 Off Piste. (R)

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Children's Hall of Fame Hour: Henry Kelly presents a selection of children's favourites. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals: Violinist Joji Hattori plays works by Fritz Kreisler. 3.00 Michael Mappin. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Rossini: William Tell Overture. Royal Opera House Orchestra/Carlo Rizzi. Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf. Christopher Lee (narrator), English String Orchestra/Yehudi Menuhin. Debussy: La boite e joujoux, Lyon Opera Orchestra/Kent Nagano. Saint-Saens: Carnival of the Animals. Katia and Mariella Labeque (pianos), Miecha Maisky (cello), Evelyn Glennie (percussion). 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Classic Celebrity

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark, 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott, 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

Recitals. 3.0-6.0 Mark Griffiths.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Seven Days, 1.45 Wild Tales, 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 On Screen. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Watershed, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Breakfast Show with Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 An Audience with Nicholas Parsons. 1.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale, 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

12.55 Ever Decreasing Circles (7842349).

1.30 Waiting for God (3316252), 2.25 Only when I Laugh (44035558), 2.55 - 7.00

6.00 Tiny Living (9227683), 9.00 The Roseanne Show (4037409), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5865312). 10.40

Michael Cole (3076770). 11.30 Brookside (1903022). 12.00 Special Babies

3064003). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1544664).

L35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7481577).

2.10 The Jerry Springer Show (4877683). 3.00 Films: Smash-up, the Story of a Woman (1947) (1694428). 5.00 Beyond Belief: Fact o: Fiction (2921515). 5.35

Carri Cook, Won't Cook (8889206), **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show (6509003), **7.00** Rescue 911 (7286190), **7.30** Beyond Be-

lief: Fact or Fiction (1862206), 8.00 Mur-

der Call (9612916). 9.00 Nothing Lasts

1.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1093664).

Shopping with Screenshop (48545523).

LIVING

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

FOR THE last Monday of the year an endgame theme seemed in order; and why not go to the end of the alphabet too, with that essential concept zugzwang?

Now adopted into English from the original German, zugzwang is applied to a position in which, in contrast to the normal situation, it is a disadvantage to be oo move. Sometimes one side can manoeuvre to put the other "into zugzwang" even if originally they had the move. But in other cases, this is impossible: socalled "mutual zugzwang", as in this, the fundamental position of all endgame play.

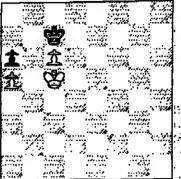


Mutual zugzwang, White to play

If 1 Ke5 Kd7 2 Kd5 Kd8! draws but not 2 Ke8?? 3 Ke6 when it's now Black's move.

1... Kd8 2 Kd6 stalemate Whereas with Bleck to move 1... Kd8 2 d7 Kc7 3 Ke7 wins.

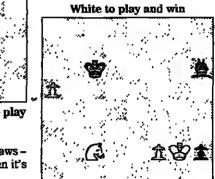
See next diagram: In this much more difficult position. White starts off apparently in zugzwang but is able to "lose a move" to (threaten to) reach the same position, but with



Triangulation

his adversary on play. The method bere is called "triangulation" after the White king march from d4-c4-d5. Bleck cannot follow suit since his king can't go to d7.

1 Kd5 Kc8 2 Kd4 Kd8 3 Kc4 Kc8 4.Kd5 Kd8 5.Kd6 Kc8 6.c7 and wins



Richard Reti 1922

Both the first two examples were rather dry and technical. Not so this beautiful study. Black is threatening to draw with 1... Kb5. The solution is just two exquisite moves:

1 Nd4+ Kc5 2 Kh1!! zugzwang

Game all; dealer North

BRIDGE

A RECURRENT tactical problem comes up in the closing stages of a big pairs event. You are doing well but not quite well enough to be in the big money unless you end with a few near tops. South was in just that position on this deal when be

beard his partner open One Club. As you can see. Six Clubs would bave been an excellent contract and, in practice, would bave scored some 75 per cent. A gamble on Seven Clubs would have yielded a top score (thanks to the diamond finesse) but, after some rather haphazard approach sbots, South decided to try for 6 No-trumps obviously not as good as the small slam in clubs, but standing to score

West, rejuctant to lead awey from ♥Kinto e suit that South had bid, chose a passive club lead, giving declarer breething-space. A successful diamond finesse meant thet there were not 11 tricks in sight and, at trick 3, South ducked a diamond to East. A diamond came back but West showed out, leaving only limited squeeze chances to save the day.

South started by cashing TA and then settled down to run the rest of the clubs. East, forced to keep OJ, let his bearts go first but, on the last club, had to come down

North **★**A743 ♡ none 0742 4AK10854 West East **♦QJ106 4852** ♥K 108642 ♥Q 7.5 093 OKJ 108 463 **+**72 South **♠**K9 **VAJ93**

to \bullet O J \diamond J. Declarer threw his now useless 06 and West was squeezed in bearts and spades. He tbrew ♠2 and dummy's ♠7 became declarer's 12th trick. East should have trusted his

partner to hold the third round of spades as otherwise the and could not be defended. If be keeps ♥Q and ♦ J and West retains ♠8 5 2. there is no squeeze.

That was e triumph but, again pushing too hard, North-South collected three poor scores out of the . last four deals and so slipped out . of contention.

PICK OF THE DAY

WHAT BETTER way to wake you (8pm Sky Premier). Perhaps include: Shark Island (6.30pm): Wilder Discovery: Zambezí Shark (8pm); Hammerheads (9pm); Jaws in the Med (10pm); and Sharks: the Real Story

Further thrills and spills are provided by Independence Day

(5372225). See Pick of the Day. 11.00

Sharks - the Real Story (1967931). See

et (1967639), 1.00 Connections 2 by

cient Warriors (9738523).

SKY ONE

Pick of the Day. 12.00 Pedal for the Plan-

James Burke (9562829). 1.30-2.00 An-

9.00 Games World (4149751). 845 Games

Earthworm Jim (63206). 10.00 Hercules -

the Legendary Journeys (40426). 11.00

12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (86157).

(98428). 4.00 Guilty! (77935). 5.00 Star

Trek: Deep Space Nine (8374). 8.00 Mar-ried with Children (3935). 6.30 Friends

(7515). 7.00 The Simpsons (9003). 7.30

The Simpsons (3799). 9.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (29886). 9.00 Stiders

Married with Children (41596), 11.00

SKY SPORTS 1

Friends (78664), 11.30 Star Trek: Deep

7.00 Scottish Football Dundee v Celtic

Extra · Bank Holiday Special (508022).

ce Nine (98374), 12.30 Highlander

(27097). 1.30 - 9.00 Long Play (6545417).

(59490), 8.30 Racing News (52190), 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (86770), 9.30 Soccer

22.00 Sky Sports Centre Bank Holiday Results Special (7635935). 5.30 Football League Review Wolverhampton Wanderers

(13062). 10.00 South Park (32848). 10.30

up from your post-Christmas the biggest budget B-movie of all stupor than with a bracing time, this buge box-office hit bite from a shark? The shark features Bill Pullman as the theme runs through the evening President, Will Smith (right) as a on Discovery. Highlights pilot and Jeff Goldblum as a scientist. They all club together to fight off aliens trying to take over the world. The real star of the show bowever is the dazzling special effects team who have e field day with the aerial battle between good and evil.

JAMES RAMPTON



vs loswich Town (84026), 7.00 Knockouts of 98 (9645). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (8461). 9.00 Ford Monday Night Football (B4461), 9.30 Knockouts of 98 (12683). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (288461). 10.15 Football League Review Wolverhampton Wanderers vs loswich Town (499157), 11.45 Figure Skating (261596). 1.45 Ford Monday Night Football (140436). 3.15 Sky Sports

World (4139374), 8.30 Street Sharks (20003), 9.00 The Simpsons (44693), 9.30 Centre (48859829), 3.30 Close. **SKY SPORTS 2** 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3170206). 7.30 Racing News (3182041), 9.00 Squash The New Adventures of Superman (20664). (7106022). 9.00 NFL American Football 5042041) 12.30 Footbal League Wolves 1.00 Days of Our Lives (62577). 2.00 Salty Jessy Rapheel (67461). 3.00 Jenny Jones vs lpswich (7877138), 3,00 Darts: World Championships (7755577). 11-00 Knockouts of 98 (8450ft9), **11.30** Cricket Australia vs England (889504f), **2.00** Knockouts of 98 (5958078). 2.30 Cricket

> SKY SPORTS 3 9.00 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (85297751). 10.00 International Cricket Australia v England (85207138). 10.30 International Cricket South Africa v West Indies (98:57645). 3.00 International Cricket Australia vs England (54387664). 5.30 V-Mex (93575799). 9.00 World Windsurfing (93565312). 8.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (26625428). 8.00 International Cricket Australia vs England (79792138). 10.30 Dickie Davies's Sporting Heroes John Surtees (1479657/), 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Xtrem Sports Yoz Mag (91770). 8.30 Xtrem Sports (68732). 8.30 Cross-Country Sking (23799). 10.00 Alpine Sking (82428). 11.00 Alpine Skiing (37157). 12.30 Football (73886). 2.30 Alpine Skiing (2684). 3.00 Alpine Skiing (2732). 3.30 Alpine Skiing Apine Sking (2702), 3.30 Apine Sking (69461), 5.30 Alpine Sking (6480), 9.00 Alpine Sking (80246), 7.00 Ski Jumping (21138), 8.30 Boxing (41848), 9.30 Equestrianism (94206). 10.30 Alpine Skiing

(78751). 11.00 Football (57041). 1.00 Close.

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (7662729), 7.30 Neighbours (4195393), 7.55 EastEnders (4502770). 8.30 The Bit (8818190). 9.00 The Bill (8832770). 9.30 Pride and Prejudica (\$907664), 10.30 Angels (8838954), 11.00 Dalas (3242864), 11.55 Neighbours (32891515), 12.25 EastEnders (2025664). 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (7198119), 2.00 Dallas (6355003), 2.55 The Bill (2717954). 3.25 The Bill (8924954) 3.55 EastEnders (2685570) 4.30 Angels (76178886) 4.55 Films: Carry On Christmas: Carry On Girls nas: Carry On Girts (1973) (20625596). 6.45 Christmas Comedy Alternative: Keeping Up Appearances (6612732). 7.45 Christmes Comedy Alter-native: Ever Decreasing Circles (2572436). 8.25 Christmas Comedy Alternative: B terflies (7013157). 9.00 One Foot in the Grave (5798022). 9.40 Men Behaving Badly (7656190), **10.20** Bottom (5323138). **11.00** The Bill (3222190), **11.30** The Bill

(5680616), 12.00 'Allo 'Allo (7361320).

Forever (9615003). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (1339916). **12.00** Close. 9.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (65040022). **1L00** Where Eagles Dare (1969) (65344770). **1.45** Point Blank (1967) (39512875). **3.15** Night Olgger (1971) (89289146). **5.00** Close().

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (3765). 7.30 Desmond's (6003). 8.00 Roseanne (6935). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (8770). 9.00 Cybil (11393). 9.30 Seinfeld (10225). 10.00 asier (72577). 10.30 Cheers (81225). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (23138), 11.30 Late Night with David Letterman (61894) 1.00 Taxi (81441). 1.30 The Critic (12691). 2.00 Dr Katz (82523). 2.30 Soap (74558). 3.00 Hooperman (94707) 3.30 Nightstand (85610), 4.00 Close

GRANADA PLUS 9.00 The Box (9298683). 7.00 On the Buses (8628157). 7.30 Fenn Street Gang (8607664), 9.00 That's My Boy (8310119). 8-30 Second Thoughts (8302190), 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (8328770), 9.30 Emmerdale (8209683), 10.00 thirtysomething (8603846), 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (8616312). 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (8313206). **12.30** Emmerdale (8210799). 1.00 How's Your Father? (8627428). 1.30 Watching (8202770), 2.00 thirtysomething (4288393), 3.00 Sherlock Holmes (6905041), 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (2511954). 6.00 Mission impossible (2328206). 8.00 The Professionals (2329935), 9.00 Cracket (2322022). **11.00** As Granada Men & Motors until 200am (1532409). 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: 2.20 Joins BBC News 24 (89676639).

ANGLIA 6.00 GMTV (1867225). 9.25 Disney Cartoon (4108206). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1783799). 10.00 Brilliant Creatures (7082770). 10.20 Film: Little Giants (43284138). 12.30 Film: The Adventures of Huck Finn (79022). 2.30 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (437935) 5.00 News; Weather (2952799) 5.10 Film: Man of the House (23794461). **7.90** Wish You Were Here...? (7867). **7.30** Coronation Street: It looks like the Rovers is about to change hands like the Rovers is about to Change hands as Alec and Natalie thrash out e deal, but Alec seems to have forgotten the sitting tenents upstairs (515). 8.00 Police, Camera, Actioni (1393). 9.00 Cachael (3645). 10.30 ITN News; Weather (850747). 10.45 The Things You Do for Love: Black Butterflies (2791664). 11.50 Film: Slipstream (659799). 1.45 The Ijanited Fishtank (94691). 2.15 Film: Aman Upstairs (906078). 3.55 Film: Assignment Berthead* (5033271). 5.15 Assignment Redhead* (5033271). 545 ITV Nightscreen (2721962). 5.25 Coro-nation Street (7868829). 5.55 - 6.00

ITN Morning News (9275349).

HTV WALES 6.00 GMTV (1867225). 9.25 Disney Cartoon (4108206). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1783799). 10.00 Brilliant Crea-

tures (7082770). 10.20 Film: Little Giants (43284138). 12.20 ITN News; Weather (6549867). 12.30 Film: The Adventures of Huck Firm (79022). 2.30 Firm: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (437935). 5.00 Firm: Man of the House (23794461). **7.00** Wish You Were Here...? (7867). **7.30** Coronation Street (515). **8.00** Police, Carnera, Action! (1393). **5.00** Cadriael (3645). **10.30** TN News; Weather (850747). 10.45 The Things You Do for Love: Black Butter-files (2791664). 11.50 Film: Slipstream (659799). 1.45 The Haunted Fishtank (94691). 2.15 Film: The Man Upstairs (906078). 3.55 Film: Assignment Red-head* (5033271). 5.15 ITV Nightscreen (2721962). **5.25** Coronation Street (7868829). **5.55** - **6.00** ITN Morning

MERIDIAN 6.00 GMTV (1867225). 9.25 Disney Cartoon (4108206). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1783799). 10.00 Brilliani Creatures (7082770). 10.20 Film: Little

Giants (43284138). 12.20 News; Weather (6549867). 12.30 Film: The Adventures of Huck Finn (79022). 2.30 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (437935). **5.00** News; Weather (2952799). **5.10** Film: Man of the House (23794461), **7.00** Wish You Were Hera...? (7867), **7.30** Coronation Street (515), 8.00 Police, Camera, Action! (1393), 9.00 Cadfael (3645), 10.30 ITN News; Weather (850747). 10.45 The Things You Do for Love: Black Butterflies (2791664). 11.50 Film: Slipstream (659799). 1.45 The Haunted Fishtank (94691). 2.15 Film: The Man Upstairs (906078). 3.55 Film: Assignment Redhead* (5033271). 5.15 ITV Nightscreen (2721962), **5.25** Meridian Focus (7868829), **5.55 - 6.00** ITN Morning

WESTCOUNTRY 6.00 Close(). 9.25 Disney Cartoon (4108206). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1783799). 10.00 Brillant Creatures (7082770). 10.20 Film: Little Glants (43284138), **12.20** News; Weather (6549867), **12.30** Film: The Adventures of Huck First (79022). 2.30 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (437935). 5.00 News; Weather (2952799). 5.10

Film: Man of the House (23794461). 7.00 Wish You Were Hera..? (7867). 7.30 Coronation Street (515). 8.00 Police, Camera, Action! (1393). 9.00 Cadfael (3645). 10.30 ITN News; Weather (850747). 10.45 The Things You Do for Love: Black Sutterflies (2791664). 11.50 Film: Silpstream (659799), 1.45 The Haunted Fishtank (94691), 2.45 Film: The Man Upstairs (906078), 3.55 Film: Assignment Redhead* (5033271). **5.15** ITV Nightscreen (2721962). **5.25** Coronation Street (7868829). **5.55** - **8.00** ITN Morning News (9275349). YORKSHIRE

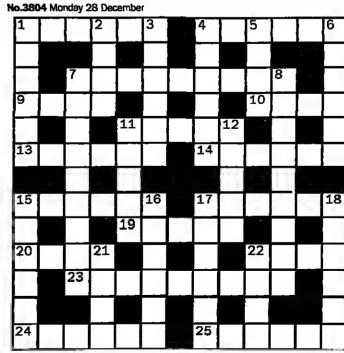
Cartoon (4108206). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1783799). 10.00 British Creatures (7082770). 10.20 Film; Little Giants (43284138). 12.20 News; Weath-er (6549867). 12.30 Emmerdale (32428). 2.00 Coronation Street (6751), 2.30 Pim: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (437935). 5.10 Film: Man of the House (23794461). 7.00 Wish You Were Here...? (7867). 7.30 Coronation Street (515). 8.00 Poice, Camera, Action Secret (515). (1393). **9.00** Cadfael (3645). **10.30** ITN News; Weather (850747). **10.45** The Things You Do for Love: Black Butter-

6.00 GMTV (1867225), 9.25 Disney

flies (2791664). 11.50 Film: Slipstream (659799). 1.45 The Haunted Fishtank (6856392). 2.20 Film: The Man Upstairs (272523), 3.55 Film: Assignment Redhead* (7622691). 5.25 Leahy in Concert (7868829). 5.55 - 6.00 ITN Morning News (9275349).

As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Planed Plant: ABC a Ding Dong (76470886). 3.50 The Fifteen-to-One Grand Final (84323480). 4-30 Planed Plant (42678732). 5.30 Countdown (11009206). 6.00 Newyddion (19693770). 6.10 Heno (80330225). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33094799). 7.25 Mas o Dlwn Nadolig (80529521). **6.00** Newyddion (49568409). **8.15** Boddi Dolwyn (36334374). **9.10** Film: The Last Days of Dolwyn*: Edith Evans stands up to vindictive property developer Emiyn Williams when he plans to turn the local valley into a reservoir (72414664). 10.55 Jo Brand's Christmas Log (74560914). 11.50 Film: Walking and Talking (82794867). 1.25 Because it's a Lonely World - with Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello (35330504). 2.25 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



DOWN

Untidy writing (6)

Restaurant worker (4)

Epitome of straightness (6) Chief (9)

Chart with contours (6,3)

15 Prestigious association (6)

Thought (4)

Quick bite (5)

12 Picture puzzle (5)

16 Keep quiet (4,2)

17 Part of vessel (6)

Pet (3-3)

Reply (6)

ACROSS

Piercing (6) Device for securing ship (6) Clerk (9) Distinctive quality (4)

10 Dread (4) 11 Not intoxicated (5) 13 Inner material (6) 14 Cause to remember (6)

15 Tight embrace (6) 17 Carry out (6) 19 Prestige (5) 20 Fellow (4) 22 Soothing ointment (4)

23 Floating navigational aid (9) 18 Bewail (6) 24 Excellent (3-3) 21 Liquid measure (4) 22 Account (4) Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Play, 3 Savannah (Place of honour), 9 Tempo, 10 Baptism, 11 Hag, 13 Pistachio, 14 Libido, 16 Rework, 18 Oversleep, 20 Ran, 22 Imitate, 23 Throb, 25 Ethereal, 26 Swab, DOWN: 1 Patch, 2 Arm, 4 Abbess, 5 Appease, 6 Neighbour, 7 Hammock, 8 Pomp, 12 Gibberish, 14 Leonine, 15 Despair, 17 Poseta, 19 Putt, 21 Nabob, 24 Raw.



PETER CONCHIE TELEVISION REVIEW

and Ralph (BBC2) was over; relieved that their good names remained unperjured by the twin bazards of Christmas special and an extended sketch format. It was e blessing thei they could now rest in peace.

Its comic premise was simple. Ralph, a simple-minded aristocrat, hed to marry before his 35th birthday or face distriberlance. Fallure to do so would also mean that Ted, his gardener and the subject of his powerful unrequited love, would be horneless. It opened with a nice visual gag. The credit for Paul Whitchouse, who plays Ted, superimposed over a deer followed by Charile Higson's, who plays Ralph, overlaid on a stalking fox.

Essentially it was e loose patchwork stitched together, but the extended format allowed for some good jokes. The party he held court in a flat cap, surrounded by young women ittening at jokes shout shovels. Their Fast Show sketches hed been brief encounters and I was concerned thet Tet and Ralph would leck legs. The party he held court in a flat cap, surrounded by young women ittening at jokes shout shovels. Their Fast Show sketches hed been brief encounters and I was concerned thet Tet and Raiph would leck legs. The party hape for given tha 70-minute duraition, and the rhythm and timing of the punchlines se sweet as ever. In the kitchen helping his master prepare for a dinner date, Ted offered to drain the carrots. "There's one of those round things over there with the holes in it," Ralph told him. "I always used to think they were called calendars, but epperently they're called... sfeves." There was e gentle stress on the first noun, and enarvellous comic peuse before the second.

"No one's ever loved me before, Ted," Ralph reflected in the aftermeth of his bride's leparture. "I wouldn't really mow about that, eir," his man

pathetic interval.
Are You Watching Jimmy Hill? (Sat BBC2) profiled another of life's outsiders.
While Des Lynam isn't quite insight incarnate, his observation thet football has enough heroes and that Hill, a baker's soo from Belbern, fulfilled its need for a villain was roughly right. A more subtle analysis might have revealed the real essence of Hill: that he's an outside;; albelt one who was eccepted.
A profile of Jimmy Hill is,

THEME OF THE DAY

The scheduling of the programme was unfortunete-tea time an Boxing Day, when e supine nation could, et any time, have emerged from e post-prandial half-slumber to e bizarre collage of dream-like images from the 1970s. There was the footage of Eric More cambe sharing e joke with Z ECO

Morecambe sharing e joke with Hill and Prince Philip - one which, by the wrinkled look of coocentration on his face, Hill etruggled to process. The line between reality and surreality would have been blurred further: by an image of Hill sitting in the stand at e Cholses game explaining metch tactics to Raquel Welch and compounded by the image of Hill - ectually quite e tail man, being an ex-inside forward - clinging to the back of e horse et Airhvee as it boited down the road. All these events a citually happened. Across the country you could imagine people waking with the words: "I've just hed the weirdeet dream" And, in a seose, this is how Hill hes spent his busy life - having dreams which others regarded as odd; being bewiched by fantastical football imaginings. In the 1950s, as chairman of the Professional P

DANCE NIGHT (6pm BBC2) You may oot feel much like dancing after four days of unbridled over-indulgence, but there are plenty of people here to trip the light fariastic for you. The night covers every genre from beliet to fee-dance via cabaret and ballroom, and includes footage of Margot Forteyn and Rudolf – very Christmessy – Nureyev, the inevitable Bolero from Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean (right), and the rather less highbrow clip of Erric and Errile soft-shoe shuffling through "Singin' in the Rain". A beautifully belanced selection, including new works, with enough to setisfy purists without proving n turn-off for the rest.

BBC

12.00 Perty of a Lifetime (S) (T) (91577). **12.30** Leughing for Ages (S) (10190). **f.00** News; Weether; Locel Newe (T) (21376598). **f.16** Neighboure (S) (T) (58744916). 10.30 [III] The Slack Hole (Gery Nelson 1979 US).
Lacklustre Disney sci-tl adventure (T) (32918).

1.40 IIIM Star Trak IV: The Voyage Home (Leonerd Nimoy 1986 US). Kirk end his crew trevel back to the late 20th century to seve Eerth (S) (T) (57684935).

6.35 **6ig Sreek.** Speciel edition of the snooker gemeshow presented by Jim Davidson (S) (T) (180393).

10)

6.30 Paddington Graen. Yet another "doou-soap", this time about the residents of e four-square-mile eree of west London. Why? Well, it's cheep (S) (T) (4634).

6.00 Man Sehaving Sadiy. Tony's job gives him e new attitude to life but Gery's office is closing down. If this really is the lest progremme ever, does that meen the New Lad is dead? Let's hope so (S) (T) (747481).

10.46 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynem introduces highlights of two of today's top games in the FA Cerling Premiership, plue a round-up of the Boxing Day metches with studio chet from Alen Hensen end Trevor Brooking (S) (T) (7090408).

t2.10 IIII Too Late the Hero (Robert Aldrich 1970 US). Plenty of blood, gute end mele bonding in this epic—well, long, enyway — WWII action dreme. Michael Ceine end Cliff Robertson pley the soldiere forced to teem up when their euicide mission to e Pacific Island goes seriously wrong. Foofball followed by e war film: thet will ettract femsie viswers... (T) (79821146).

3.35 The World's Strongest Men (S) (T) (1808480).
4.05 Oddbods (S) (T) (2948670). 4.26 Neighbours (S) (T) (8004790). 4.60 Finel Score (S) (8371190). B.15 News; Weather; Local News (T) (3715409).

6.00 EastEnders. Christmes continues on its gloomy way es Granf awaits some important news (S) (T) (819).

10.25 News Regionel News (Digitel) UK Today); Wasther (T) (734190). 9.48 Herry Enfleid's Yule Log Chums. Ditch that Thank video for Enfleid's new, improved version sterring Kevin the Teenager in the Leonerdo role. The supremely telented Psul Whitehouse end Kathy Burke ere more than mere support playere (S) (T) (949393).

Joins 86C News 24 (38357819). To 7em.

BBC2

e.10 111/1/1 The Miracia of tha Selia (Irving Pichel 1848 US). The first of three Shetra films todey concerns a young men with the sad duty of bringing back the body of the woman he loved to her home town (T) (75273732).

(0.00 Partactly Frank (S) (T) (8278798). 10.06 The West (S) (T) (2544732). 11.30 The Royel Institution Christmas Lectures: Steying Alive – the Body in Belence (S) (T) (33157). 12.30 Cricket – the Ashee (S) (18732). 1.00 Racing from Chepstow (S) (85225).

3.00 IIII The Pride and the Paesion (Stanley Kremer 1857 US). Specieculer historical drame with a ster-studded cest including Sinetra, egain, Cery Grant and Sophle Loren (1) (55840383).

8.00 [RIDIN] Dence Night. With Oeboreh Bull and Alsxel Seyle. See Theme of the Dey. below (S) (T) (276616).

6.56 Torvill and Dean. *Bolero*, of course (S) (T) (433683).

7.45 The Megic of Dance. The finel episode from Oeme Mergot Fonteyn's 1879 history of dence includes e solo creefed for her by Sir Frederick Ashton, and a 1963 Marguerita and Armand with Nureyev (S) (T) (912732).

8.35 Infanta. Short dence piece (S) (T) (793157). **6.40 Erio end Ernie.** Singin' in the Rein (S) (T) (533003).

6.45 The Art of Touch. Award-winning piece from the Slobhen Devise Dence Company set to herpsichord music by Scerlatil end Metiso Fargion (S) (T) (98/393)

6.55 Clubbing. Profile of three clubbars from Leads, Brighton and London (S) (T) (238208). 9.35 Nueein. Short film set in end eround a snowy reliway stetion. (S) (T) (323848).

10.25 [Bit0][H] Strictly Beliroom (Bez Luhrmenn 1992
Aus). Delightful offbest settra ebout an Australien
beliroom-dancing eter who osuess a stir in the staid
Austrelian Danca Federation. See Film of the Day, below Austrelian Den (S) (T) (553151)

US). Everyone thought it was mad to ettempt to make a film of such a theatrical success, and to a certain extant this proves the doubters right. Still, the energy of the original etage show remains in the musical numbers as a group of young hopefule go through their paces in the hope of making their dreams of stardom come true (T) (370770). To 1.55em.

5.10 Cerdigans et Chrietmee. No, not the group, pop fans. Thie is a light-heerted took et the Christmes light-enterteinment epecteculer. Think Vei Occinicen and petterned jumpere (R) (S) (T) (6320409).

6.06 Denca Ballerine Dence. The changing role of women in ballet over the past century (S) (T) (327225).

7.05 You Meka Me Fael like Dencing. Alexel Seyle sets out to prove thet even with two left feet you can still weltz (S) (T) (792848).

7.36 Saet Beliroom. Oencing lessons from world chempione (S) (T) (462480).

0.30 iTN Nawej Weather (T) (860747).

11.B0 1311/1 Slipetream (Steven Lisberger 1989 US/UK)
Muddled sci-fl edventure (S) (T) (659789). 1.45 The Heunted Fishtenk (6658392).

国际 Aesignment Redhead (Maclean Rogere 1958 UK). Dismel crime melodreme (7622691). The Man Upetelre (George Sheefer 1891 US), Diseppointing comedy-dreme (S) (272623).

8.05 Illi Young at Heart (Gordon Douglas 1954 US).
Good of fashloned romence and songe from Sinetra
end Dorls Dey in this largely successful remake of The
Four Daughters (T) (37392190).

2,10

T.30 7.00 Wieh You Were Here...?. Two Turners for the price ons as Anthee end sister visit Tenby. Plus St Petereburg. Florida; Bercelona; end Lepland (S) (7) (7867).

Coronetion Straet. Alec has e shock proposel for Vicky. Mike cetchee Jackle In the act (T) (515).

8.00 Polica, Cemera, Action! What could be better then cobbled-together police videoe of people driving extraordinarily badly? Why, en hour-long epecial of the highlights of the ell the pest progremmes of people driving badly. This is one berrs! that's been thoroughly screped (1) (1393).

Leahy in Concert (7868829). B.**55** Morning News (9275348). To 6em.

2.30 .20 Newej Weether (T) (6549887)

2.30 IIIII On Her Majesty's Sacret Sarvice (Peter Hunt 1969 UK). George Lezenby, where ere you now? This was his one outing as 007 (1) (437835). 5.00 Newel Weether (T) (2952799)

5.30 EIM The

3.30 IIIII One Mora Trein to Rob (Andrew V McLeglen 1871 US). Light end breezy western ebout en outlew out for revenge etter his former pertner frames him for e crime end steels his sweetheart away, too (T)

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et the changi

7.30

Wild at Home. Belize's howler monkeys have been given a new lease of life by an American enthropologist (S) (T) (2116461).

7.00

5 Newe, including First on Five. Netlonel and International news with Kirsty Young (S) (1) (272374)

6.30

Family Affaire. When Kelth telle Annie that Dave eterted the fire deliberetely. Deve has to take drestic measures to throw her off the ecent (S) (T) (2127577)

00.0

t00 Per Cant. Revemped gemeshow, but just ee dull as before. (S) (2136225).

Name Thet Tuna. Muelc quiz presented by Jools Holland (2138312).

tt.40 [ATK] Welking and Talking (Nicole Holofcener 1996 UK/US). Holofcener's debut is e refreshing comedy ebout two women whose friendship is thrown into turmoil when one of them decides to merry (T) (793867).

Carlton

Channel

9.25 Childran'e ITV: Olsney Certoon (4108206). 6.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (S) (T) (1783799). 10.00 Brillient Crseturee (R) (S) (T) (7082770).

0.20 [III] Little Glante (Duwayne Dunhem/Brien Levant 1884 US). Predicteble sports comedy (S) (T)

6-25 [][[]] Lassie's Graat Adventure (Willem Beudine 1963 US). More doggie derring-do (69640684).

Sunsat Beach (S) (T) (9810857), **ff.10** Lseza (R) (S) (8273887). **12.00** 5 Newe et Noon (S) (T) (7300225), **f2.30** Femily Affeirs (S) (T) (2927935), **f.00** The Bold end the Beeutiful (S) (T) (6784954); **f.30** Wowlebgroovy (2920206), **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1201886), **2.30** Good Atternoon (S) (2968461),

B.00 The Wind in the Willows (R) (25681393), 6.28 Rooberb (R) (37185798). 8.30 Deppledown Farm (R) (4359596). T.00 Wimzle's House (R) (6785683). T.30 Milkshekel (S) (2324683). 7.35 Hevake zoo (R) (S) (5996886). 8.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7166770).

hannel 5

of the clessic (S) (T) (78022).

an Powers looks
sign through past
other
other
el Coetes's 1998
Seo Documentary

6.30 ELM Little Woman (Gillen Louiss Mey Alcott's sentimentel s

B.00 The Sweanay. Classic Seventies police spawned a thousend spools, the sort of aren't going to complein about. A ludicrouthough, as Regen end Certer try to foil exit is foreign head of etels. They even mederic Morecambs and Ernie Wise (T) (837)

ort of repeal you udicrous storyline, foil e Merxist plot to en menage to dreg in (637/409).

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TELEVISION GUIDSE BY CLAIRE GERVAT



DEAL HOME? (7.30)

ow, though none of the houses featured ow, though none of the houses featured stary sbout 90 years of the Ideal Home is a moat. The Tudorbethen creations of

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

FILM OF THE DAY

STRICTLY BALLROOM (10.25pm BBC2. right) Those who associated Australian film with gentle period draines like Picuic at Honging Rock were shocked out of their plus-fours by the exuberance of the Ninctles. First this glorious and colourful satire in 1992, then the outrageously camp Priscilla Queeu of the Oesert two years loter. Paul Morcurio has a gift



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